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The Honourable Samuel Gargan, Speaker

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1996

Page 151

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, Hon. Kelvin Ng, Mr.

Ningark, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Hon. Manikotk Thompson, Hon. John Todd

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. The House will come to order. Good afternoon. Orders of the day, item 2, Budget Address. Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

ITEM 2: BUDGET ADDRESS

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For some reason, I am nervous. Mr. Speaker, today it is my pleasure to present the first budget of the 13th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

This is not a "business-as-usual" budget but these are not "business-as-usual times." It is no secret that our revenues are declining. This year alone, federal transfer payments will fall by almost \$90 million.

This government's ability to raise revenues through taxation is limited. We must reduce our expenditures. But let there be no mistake about the reason for these reductions, it is because of reduced transfer payments from the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, we have had to reconsider all government operations in light of these reductions to our transfer payments. In doing so, we have decided against making across-the-board cuts.

The budget reductions we have implemented are fair and equitably distributed, so all residents of the Northwest Territories share in the necessary changes.

These changes will be far reaching. No one will be exempt and no one will be singled out.

Mr. Speaker, this is the bad news side of the budget and, as they say, "bad news travels fast."

Opportunities

But today, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about opportunities. About how government funds will be invested to convert opportunities to jobs, about our plans to better utilize government revenues and about a better life for all the people of the Northwest Territories.

This \$1.2 billion budget contains a great deal of good news which supports a new direction for government as we move toward the year 2000. This budget addresses expansion of the Northwest Territories economy, preparation of our people to meet this expansion and continuing provision of essential programs and services that government is mandated to deliver.

This budget addresses investment opportunities and working in creative partnerships with communities, with aboriginal organizations and with business to provide jobs and build a brighter future for our residents.

Since the Government of the Northwest Territories first moved north 30 years ago, we have spent billions of dollars providing our residents with basic services and facilities. Our focus was on the development of infrastructure and services. Over the past three decades, we have established community governments, sophisticated education and health systems and community infrastructure; from airports to arenas, to roads, to housing and to water and sewer systems.

Government funds have supported the development of small business, resource harvesting, tourism and territorial and community organizations. This government and this Legislative Assembly have developed programs that ensure a basic standard of living for all northern residents.

For the past 30 years, the principal engine of economic growth in the North was government spending and this spending sustained our economy. As a result, we now have much of the required infrastructure. Our communities have schools and services. Our system of airports, linking communities, is second to none in the world. However, there is still

much room for improvement. We will always need more facilities to keep up with our growth, but most of the basics are now in place.

Today, the Northwest Territories is poised for change. Many land claims have been settled and this has made it possible for aboriginal northerners to invest in growth opportunities to participate fully in the economy. There are economic opportunities in non-renewable resources. The mining industry has never been more active in the North. There is a resurgence of activity in the oil and gas sector. There are opportunities in the renewable resource sector. Fur prices have levelled off and are beginning to show some improvement. There is potential in forestry, fisheries and in tourism.

Mr. Speaker, today this government faces a new and critical challenge. Government must assume a new role in the development of our northern economy. As I said earlier, government, by itself, can no longer sustain economic

Page 152

growth. The onus for future economic growth must be shifted to the private sector, to aboriginal organizations and to communities, where it belongs.

But we can't stop spending on services. This government must and will continue to provide essential services to our people. Our first priority is the health of our communities. We must recognize that "a healthy society is a working society. "

Mr. Speaker, this government will concentrate on building a sustainable economy. Working people and profitable companies pay taxes and if we have more working people and more profitable companies in the Northwest Territories, we will generate more revenue; revenue required to deliver essential services and programs to our people.

Division

Mr. Speaker, we will be building this sustainable economy in a time of change; technological change, social change, economic change and, perhaps more importantly, political change. With change comes opportunity but we must manage the change process well. Division of the Northwest Territories is the major political change we will be facing during the term of this government.

We are committed to taking the actions necessary to ensure that the new governments of both Nunavut

and the Western Territory will be in place and functional by April 1, 1999. Considerable effort has been made toward this goal. Many outstanding issues remain, however, including organizational structure, training programs and additional infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, division will happen. The Nunavut Implementation Commission, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, every Nunavut community and this government are committed to division. However, Mr. Speaker, the federal government must live up to its financial obligations in this matter. It must assist in the creation of two new financially-healthy, viable territories. We intend to continue to press this matter with the federal government.

In the Western Arctic, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Honourable Jim Antoine, has scheduled regular meetings of the Aboriginal Summit and is working on protocol agreements between government and aboriginal organizations.

Aboriginal organizations must be our partners. Together we have to convince Ottawa to do what is right. This means the federal government must come clean on where it stands on aboriginal self-government. The political aspirations of the people in both new territories cannot and should not be denied.

Creative Partnerships

Mr. Speaker, this budget offers the means for northerners to take advantage of the opportunities that change brings. It has its focus on the potential for our children and grandchildren. These opportunities are found not only in larger centres across the North, but in smaller communities,

where unemployment is high and dependence on government is greatest.

How will we accomplish this, when we are faced with higher costs to operate this government and fewer dollars to spend? One answer provided in this budget is what we term "creative partnerships": individuals; businesses; aboriginal organizations; and, all levels of government pooling resources to stimulate economic growth and job creation.

This government is committed to successfully initiating creative partnerships. Partnerships are already forming in some regions of the Northwest Territories. These alliances meet the needs of our people in a more efficient manner and, as a result, will reduce government expenditures.

Last month, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi announced the creation of such a partnership in Keewatin. The Kivalliq partners program coordinates economic development programs and services delivered by an aboriginal development corporation, a business development program and our own Department of Economic Development and Tourism and creates a one-stop shop for economic development programs in the region. This program illustrates how we can utilize our financial resources more effectively.

Mr. Speaker, this government will move aggressively to initiate new, far-reaching partnerships in sectors such as mining, telecommunications, utilities and financial services. These types of partnerships give us more "bang for the buck" while holding the line on territorial government spending.

Private Sector Investment

Bringing new dollars into the economy will also be a main objective of this government. We will be encouraging investment from industry, from the financial community, from the federal government and from our own residents. We plan to aggressively market the Northwest Territories as a developing, but stable environment for both small and large-scale investment.

Mining

We would like to make it clear to the mining industry that the Northwest Territories is open for business. We want and need sustainable mineral development. We want to be partners in building this industry. Mining has the potential to generate wealth in the Northwest Territories. Mining can provide badly needed jobs, in mines and in businesses throughout the economy. Our mineral potential stretches from the Mackenzie Mountains near Fort Simpson to the northern reaches of Baffin Island. Our mineral resources are world class.

Mining follows exploration. Without the work of many of the junior exploration companies, there would be no diamond discovery in the Lac de Gras area, no gold finds across the Precambrian Shield and no base metal finds in the Arctic.

Exploration is expensive. The 1995 exploration expenditures in the Northwest Territories were the highest in Canada. In

1996, we expect exploration expenditures to exceed \$200 million.

Recently, northerners and northern businesses have begun to participate in exploration. But exploration is only worth the financial risk if companies can profitably develop what they discover. At the Nunavut Mining Symposium last month, Bob Hickman of BHP Minerals said, "Mining companies go where they are welcome."

Mr. Speaker, mining companies are welcome here, if they are prepared to create jobs for northerners, use northern companies to supply goods and services and safeguard our environment. Mining companies go where tax and regulatory regimes are stable, competitive and fair. We have the lowest personal and corporate tax rates in Canada and we plan to use this advantage to encourage the orderly development of our mineral industry. Mr. Speaker, in this budget, we are not proposing any new taxes on the mining industry.

--- Applause

Since the cost of doing business is already higher in the North than almost anywhere else in the world, this government intends to work with industry to develop incentive programs that give us a competitive edge, programs that would reward companies that make genuine efforts to contribute to our economy, form real and lasting partnerships with northern and aboriginal companies, and create jobs for our people.

We are prepared to sit down with industry and discuss the whole area of taxation, incentives and investment in infrastructure that will quicken the pace and expand the scope of mining development and provide incremental benefits to the people of the Northwest Territories.

Mining can be the anchor of our economy for decades to come. It is clear from any objective analysis that the responsible development of our mineral resources represents the single most important opportunity that we have for sustainable economic growth.

Oil And Gas Industry

We will also pursue continuing investment from the oil and gas industry. Oil and gas activity is increasing in the Western Arctic, particularly near Fort Liard. The exploration dollars flowing into this corner of the Northwest Territories are putting people to work, supporting the local economy and giving new hope for

prosperity. Further north in the Sahtu, oil and gas exploration is also putting people to work.

Business Investment Strategy

New investment in the Northwest Territories will not be limited to mining and oil and gas. The Government of the Northwest Territories will launch a new business investment strategy designed to bring money and jobs into the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Finance has established an investment office, whose sole purpose is to attract new business investment to the Northwest Territories. This office will identify investment opportunities and potential investors. Residency in the North offers major tax advantages for private individuals and businesses. We intend to capitalize on this by actively marketing the Northwest Territories as a business environment offering a variety of opportunities, an eager workforce and high potential returns.

This investment office will rely on the assistance of industry leaders from across Canada, people who know how the investment community works and how to use our strengths to attract investment dollars to the Northwest Territories. The investment office will work cooperatively with the Economic Advisory Panel announced by the Premier earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, government alone can no longer meet the growing demands for services of our rapidly increasing population. We must build investor confidence in the Northwest Territories so that business will share in the risks and benefits of our growth. This government must lead the way. We must adjust our perspective where necessary, seek partners who will share our goals and look outward to the private sector for the investment we need to sustain and improve our standard of living.

We project that new investment in the Northwest Territories from all sources, including government, will be \$425 million this year. It is our goal to greatly increase this level of investment by the year 1999, investment that will lead directly to increase revenues for the government and jobs for our residents.

Government Investments

Although this government must continue to control spending and reduce its deficit, it cannot stop building for the future. Our aim, therefore, is to allocate part of our spending in this budget to investments and

initiatives that will bring sustainable benefits now and for the future.

Community Economic Development

Mr. Speaker, although I have concentrated on large-scale investment, this government will not overlook the smaller sectors that make a substantial contribution to our economy. The Minister responsible for the amalgamation of the departments of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Economic Development and Tourism and Renewable Resources, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, will lead our investment in the economic growth of our communities.

To foster community economic development and small business growth, Mr. Kakfwi will be introducing a community initiatives program worth \$5 million. With the expiration of the economic development agreement, this program is critical to the development of viable economies in our communities.

The objectives of the program are to diversify regional and local economies to improve the competitive position of economic sectors and to strengthen technical, entrepreneurial business management and marketing skills through training. The results will be both short and longterm employment in our smaller communities. Every cent of

Page 154

this program, Mr. Speaker, will be invested in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, we will also continue to invest in the hunting and trapping industry. In the past few months, we have seen an increase in fur prices. The price of beaver pelts, for example, has increased more than 30 per cent between February and April of this year. There has been a small resurgence in the market for sealskins. At a recent auction, more than 1,000 pelts were sold, averaging almost \$23 per pelt. This price is well above the low point reached in the 1980s of \$8 per pelt.

This government will continue to support efforts to establish new markets for our furs. In addition to our efforts in Europe, we will be looking to open new doors in the rapidly expanding Asian market. We aim to return our fur industry to the status it once had, as an essential sector of our economy.

Education And Jobs

Mr. Speaker, the creation of jobs is a priority of this government. I have already spoken of new jobs in the mining industry, and in the oil and gas industry. To ensure these jobs, keep them and advance in these and other fields, our labour force must be well trained and prepared for the employment opportunities of the coming decades. We want northerners to be trained and ready to assume more management positions as our economy grows.

Under the leadership of the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Charles Dent, we plan to reinvest \$6.2 million this fiscal year in a series of initiatives to develop a skilled workforce. These initiatives include Investing in People, labour force planning and development, technology investment, improving student achievement and increasing accessibility to secondary education.

Mortgage And Loan Company

Mr. Speaker, to make mortgage financing more accessible to northerners living in communities where there are presently no real estate markets, the government proposes to establish a Mortgage and Loan Company. This organization will actively seek opportunities to provide financing to prospective home owners and housing developers, particularly in our smaller northern communities, where traditional bank financing may be more difficult to secure.

The government will make an initial equity investment in this Mortgage and Loan Company of up to \$5 million. Private investors will be sought to supplement the equity base of the company. As the company will be structured to qualify as a mortgage investment company, the government's and other investors' equity can be used to lever up to five times as many dollars to help meet our ongoing demand for housing across the North.

Accessible mortgage funds will increase home ownership across the North and help alleviate this government's heavy fiscal responsibility for providing housing. Stimulation of the housing sector, particularly in the smaller communities, will also create needed jobs in the construction industry.

In brief, a one-time investment of \$5 million now in a mortgage and loan fund, can save the government much more in years to come.

Digital Telecommunications Network

Northerners now want and need to be connected to the world. The Nunavut Implementation Commission, in *Footprints in New Snow*, has said: "The pathways of the future will be travelled electronically."

Today, technology exists that would allow a nurse in Clyde River to take X-rays that a doctor in Iqaluit or Montreal could view within minutes. It would be possible for students in Deline to see and work with teachers in Fort Simpson or Tokyo without leaving the classroom.

This technology is now available. We have undertaken studies to see how we can use the new technology in our own operations. By implementing this technology, the departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Health and Social Services will become more efficient in their operations and will improve the delivery of their services. We are confident that many other cost-effective uses will be found, both in government and the private sector.

In the past, transportation was our main connection to opportunities. Today, many of our communities are connected by roads, and most are connected by regular air service, by telephones and fax machines.

Now we need faster connections to the people and businesses in northern, national and international markets. To take advantage of marketing, business, educational and health-related opportunities, we will have to connect to the information highway. We must look outward and open this window on the world.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is proposing a partnership to support the development of a comprehensive digital communications network to link all communities in the Northwest Territories. Portions of this new network will be operational in early 1997 and it will be completed by the end of 1998.

This technology will be available to our government and to businesses and individuals on a cost-shared basis. It is important to emphasize that a guiding principle of this initiative is that all communities will be served so that even the smallest or most remote community will have access to the benefits that such a communications network can offer.

People in all of our communities will soon be able to communicate round the world via the Internet and World Wide Web. An elder in the Baffin will be able to talk to a university class in Japan. Trappers will be

able to market their furs in Europe and Asia. And our children will be able to tell the world about the North.

Mr. Speaker, this government does not intend to get into the telecommunications business. We do intend to work in partnership with interested firms who want to participate in designing, implementing and operating this northern network.

Page 155

The government will be issuing a request for proposals this month to obtain offers to deliver this new service. By using the government's communications requirements as a base for this proposal, we expect to generate a multi-million dollar investment by the private sector in the design and construction of a state-of-the-art system. The resulting private sector system will be available to all governments, aboriginal organizations, individuals and businesses in the North.

Northern Accord

Mr. Speaker, another important investment that this government will make is in the negotiation of a northern accord on minerals and oil and gas with the federal government. The Premier, the Honourable Don Morin, has spoken on many occasions of the importance for northerners to gain control over northern resources. We cannot continue to let our land and resources be managed and controlled from Ottawa.

Mr. Morin has just returned from Ottawa where he received a commitment from the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to conclude negotiations quickly on the transfer of this authority. We will be aggressively pursuing a speedy resolution of these negotiations so that northerners can take control of and maximize the benefits from non-renewable resource development.

Regulatory Review

Mr. Speaker, through its regulatory regime, a government safeguards many aspects of the environment, economy and society. Over time, many of these regulations may become cumbersome and outdated or result in costly overlap and duplication with regulatory regimes implemented by other levels of government.

Just recently, the difficulty in registering a new small business was brought to my attention. It seems that between municipal business licences, territorial

companies registration and Workers' Compensation Board requirements, we have created a costly maze of red tape for small entrepreneurs.

To substantially reduce the regulatory burden that deters economic development, we will be initiating a comprehensive review of all territorial regulations to streamline and update the regulatory regime in the NWT while, at the same time, ensuring that the public trust is protected.

Business Incentive Policy

Mr. Speaker, in addition to encouraging new investment, we also recognize the importance of maximizing the benefits of government spending on our economy. We have come a long way in our attempts to keep government spending, which helps to create northern jobs, in the North. But there is more work to be done in this area.

The business incentive policy has been in place for many years. Over that period, the number of northern firms in the marketplace and the amount of government spending

reaching these companies and their employees have increased significantly.

However, it is also recognized that this policy is not perfect. We are currently reviewing this policy and are considering revisions that will ensure northern firms and their employees get the greatest benefit from government spending.

Balancing The Budget

Mr. Speaker, I have chosen to outline our opportunities and investment strategy before I present the actual budget figures. As Minister of Finance and the person responsible for the healthy fiscal position of this government, I believe the growth potential of the Northwest Territories deserves as much attention as expenditure reductions. A successful growth strategy will help replace scarce government dollars.

A successful growth strategy will allow the private sector to drive economic expansion. Government's new role is to facilitate, not bankroll, economic development. Did I say bankroll?

Mr. Speaker, although the budget I am presenting today is a deficit budget, I can see a bright future if we work together to realize the economic and social potential of the Northwest Territories.

When this government took office last November, we were projecting a deficit for 1996-97 of over \$100 million. Reductions in transfer payments from the federal government and growing expenditure demands led us to this position. One of the major challenges facing the Members of this Legislative Assembly was to restore the Government of the Northwest Territories to a position of fiscal health.

The situation became worse with each new forecast. As revenue projections fell and expenditure needs continue to rise, the deficit forecast grew to \$150 million. Without any action on our part to bring the deficit under control, this government would be more than \$600 million in debt by April 1, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an option. It is unfair to our children and to the future governments of Nunavut and the Western Territory.

Mr. Speaker, this Legislative Assembly has taken action. We have made the tough decisions. Together, the measures announced over the last few months, and those announced today, will result in the 1996-97 deficit being reduced from a projected \$150 million to \$43 million, and will lead to a balanced budget in 1997-98. As the federal Finance Minister stated recently in MacLean's Magazine: "For years government has been promising more than they can deliver and delivering more than they can afford." That has to end, Mr. Speaker, and we are ending it.

The 1996-97 budget calls for expenditures, including estimated supplementary appropriations and lapses, of \$1.211 billion. This is approximately \$70 million less than forecast expenditures for the 1995-96 fiscal year. Total revenues for 1996-97 are expected to be \$1.168 billion.

Page 156

The net result for the 1996-97 fiscal year will be a \$43 million deficit, which will increase our accumulated deficit to \$85 million by the end of this fiscal year. Eliminating the entire projected \$150 million deficit in one year would create too much hardship for the residents of the Northwest Territories. We must be serious about deficit reduction, but

This government has developed a realistic and responsible fiscal recovery plan. This plan has the Northwest Territories returning to a balanced budget as early in our government's mandate as possible, while protecting those most in need and supporting our fledgling northern economy. The fiscal recovery

plan does not rely on tax increases to solve our problems. Instead, the plan tackles the root problem: that the government spends more than it takes in.

The plan calls for expenditure reductions of over \$100 million in 1996-97. Some of these reductions have been reallocated to the initiatives I have already mentioned. The remainder have been used to reduce our anticipated deficit to \$43 million.

Next year, Mr. Speaker, further spending reductions will be necessary. Some of these reductions will be reallocated to finance unavoidable growth in statutory expenditures, such as education and health, and the rest will be used to eliminate the remaining budget deficit and start to generate the small surpluses needed to pay down our accumulated deficit.

In our examination of government spending, we concluded that while everyone must share the burden of cost cutting -everybody -- those most vulnerable must bear the smallest burden. We have tried to structure the reductions so that they impact those who can afford them most.

One example of this approach is in the area of wage and benefit reductions. Members of the Legislative Assembly have led by example. We have taken a seven per cent cut in indemnities and a very large reduction in pension benefits. This House has shown that no one is exempt from reductions.

The reductions also affect government employees. We recognize the contribution government employees have made over the years to this government and to the northern economy. However, government wages account for over 35 per cent of our total budget and employees cannot be immune from the reductions that must be implemented to put our financial house in order.

This government has focused on protecting jobs to the extent possible. The number of jobs cut has been kept relatively low, and the number of staff laid off has been kept even lower. Through priority hiring and enhanced severance pay, the impact of budget reductions on staff is further reduced.

Mr. Speaker, the government has looked hard at how it does business. We have moved to eliminate unnecessary administration and duplication. We have consolidated departments to increase the level of program integration. We

have directed that government get out of areas best left to the private sector or to communities.

This government has identified services which could be privatized: management of government real estate assets; provision of computer systems and services; the community resupply; and, in the management of the parks system.

Mr. Speaker, community governments are demanding greater authority and responsibility. A priority of this government will be to identify and eliminate legislative and other barriers to communities taking a more active role in running their own affairs.

Community Empowerment

The primary vehicle to make this happen is the community empowerment initiative. This initiative is being led by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Honourable Manitok Thompson.

Through this initiative, the government is taking a hard look at how it does business. We have a great deal of government for a relatively small population. We spend too much money getting programs and services to our people. We need to better allocate scarce resources to where they do the most good, in our communities.

Communities have told us that they need to plan for their future in an integrated way, they need control over local resources, they need training and support so that local people can run community programs and, most of all, they need the flexibility to utilize funding in a manner that best meets their needs.

We are committed to taking the bold action required to meet these needs through the community empowerment initiative.

Community Wellness

Mr. Speaker, a fundamental cornerstone of community empowerment is community wellness. In order for communities to manage their own affairs, their residents must have control of the resources needed to come to grips with the many social problems that confront northern communities.

The Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Kelvin Ng, will be identifying dedicated, ongoing funding to promote and enhance community wellness. This funding will be used initially to help communities develop their own plans for implementing wellness initiatives.

The Department of Health and Social Services, in conjunction with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and other departments, is developing a plan that will allow communities to take on responsibility for a full range of wellness programs and services currently managed by this government. This framework will be complete by June of this year.

Page 157

The funding arrangements will provide flexibility, allowing communities to develop their own priorities for service delivery. Ideally, the funding for government programs and services will be managed through a single organization at the community level. This will promote consistency and ensure that services are linked and complementary to each other.

The community wellness strategy will provide the framework for the development and delivery of social programs during the life of this government and leading up to division. By coordinating efforts across government, we can deal with our fiscal realities and actually improve and make more relevant the programs and services required by people in their communities. We need a holistic, integrated approach at every level and on every issue to begin to solve our social problems.

Mr. Speaker, another initiative where our limited resources will be put to good use is in early childhood intervention. The Honourable Charles Dent has identified \$1 million to develop and implement a range of integrated early childhood intervention services in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Services. These services will ensure that children with potential problems receive the help and support they need to succeed in school. In other jurisdictions where these services are offered, the demonstrated long-term benefits include healthier families, fewer school drop-outs, fewer school failures, decreased social assistance costs and reduced costs for special education support in schools.

Community Justice

Another essential element of community wellness is the fundamental reform of the administration of justice. The way that we currently deliver "justice" in the communities is not working well. We need to develop solutions that ensure that local people are involved in making decisions about local problems. More specifically, we need to build the foundation necessary for ensuring that communities can take a

lead role in resolving disputes and in addressing problems that result in community disorder.

Work has already begun to help communities take on an increased role in dispute resolution and restorative justice. We are committed to building on the work already done to ensure that we create effective partnerships between communities, government and all components of the justice system.

In the coming months, the Honourable Kelvin Ng will be providing more details about the proposed approach to moving decision-making and resources out of the Department of Justice and into the hands of community decision-makers. Mr. Speaker, to this end, we will be maintaining funding for community justice initiatives at 1995-96 levels.

The Department of Justice has also targeted \$600,000 to develop new approaches to community supervision of offenders. Community supervision is an alternative to incarceration. It allows communities to become more involved in the design and delivery of corrections services and programs. In addition, this approach has the potential to help contain the escalating cost of incarceration.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that we simply cannot afford to do things the way we have in the past. Fortunately, our communities want to see a change in the way we address justice issues. We are optimistic about the prospects for positive reform that will help reduce the strain on our already overburdened justice system and reduce the level of crime, disorder and instability in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, all these programs will create new opportunity for the communities. They will help reduce government overhead and, at the same time, put people at the community level to work in jobs that give them management and budget control. Community leaders will have the opportunity to set priorities for programs and services. Instead of three or four government-assisted organizations in a community, there will be a single, more cost-effective agency that can serve as the centre for community wellness initiatives.

Conclusion

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, it has often been said that the best form of income support is a job. This simple adage sums up this government's approach to the 1996-97 budget. In this budget we are seeking not only to restore the government's fiscal health, we are

outlining a vision and concrete steps for creating economic opportunities, so that northerners can either find jobs or make jobs.

The government does not have the resources to create more employment by increasing the size of our payroll. What we can and will do is create a climate that will encourage investment and job creation by others. Mr. Speaker, this government can and will invest in economic growth, not by more public spending, but by developing partnerships with communities and the private sector to create employment today and sustainable opportunities for our children.

We are proposing new methods of accomplishing the tasks of government: through creative partnerships; through investment in opportunities; and, through leveraging our limited government resources to build a new economy in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, we will encourage the flow of investment dollars to the Northwest Territories. We will support and participate in creative partnerships that solve northern problems and create wealth for northerners. And we will review and, where necessary, update or change our regulatory and tax regimes, to ensure we obtain maximum benefit from new investments.

Mr. Speaker, thoughts of gloom and doom, and constant self-examination are not productive. We need more revenue, more housing, more jobs and we have to set about creating our own opportunities. Those opportunities will be found by looking outward, by seeking creative new partners, by taking steps to get training and by investing our resources in our own future.

I am convinced that the Northwest Territories offers more opportunities for its citizens than any other place in Canada. Mr. Speaker, it is time to seize those opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Page 158

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 29-13(3): Community Nursing

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, this week, registered nurse delegates from across the Northwest Territories have gathered in Yellowknife for the annual general meeting and biennial conference of the Northwest Territories Nurses' Association. The conference theme is "nurses and communities in partnership: a community development approach."

I want to recognize the insight of the Northwest Territories Nurses' Association in selecting such a timely focus for their two-day educational session.

Mr. Speaker, as the government strengthens initiatives like community wellness, it is important that we have nurses working in partnership with communities, helping support the development of healthy communities and community-based problem solving.

We must take up the challenge to work together for healthy families in healthy communities. Only through collaboration and partnership do we have an opportunity to meet the current challenges creatively.

Mr. Speaker, the organizers of this conference have developed a partnership with the students and staff at St. Patrick High School. Through working together, both students and nurses have learned more about each other and developed new skills while planning this major educational event. Through such exposure, our young people will come to appreciate more the reward and challenge of nursing and view it as a career choice.

This December, the first class will graduate from the Aurora College northern nursing program. This is the beginning of the development of a northern nursing workforce, important to the sustainability of the North.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage northerners to eagerly pursue nursing and to prepare to work with the people of the Northwest Territories for community wellness. Nurses have lived and worked in communities in the Northwest Territories for over 50 years. They have been vital to the health system; nurses will continue to have a key role to play as members of community services teams.

Mr. Speaker, I ask each of my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing the important contributions of nurses to our communities and to the people of the North. Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 30-13(3): NWT Outstanding Volunteer Service Award

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs annually promotes volunteers in the NWT, and awards the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Service Award. This award is given in recognition of the special contribution made by one of these volunteers who, over an extended period of time, has improved the quality of life in the NWT.

This is the sixth year the award has been presented. The previous winners are: Ms. Jan Stirling of Yellowknife, 1991; Mr. Donald Clarke of Rankin Inlet 1992; Mr. Larry Gordon of Inuvik, 1993; Mr. Max Melnyk of Norman Wells, 1994; and, Ms. Helene Usherwood of Yellowknife, 1995.

Mr. Speaker, volunteers are essential to the many groups who provide programs and services for our residents. Without the spirit of our volunteers, most of these groups would not exist and the quality of all our lives would suffer. Volunteers are the single most valuable resource in achieving our priorities for community wellness and community empowerment.

Mr. Speaker, National Volunteer Week was held April 21 to 27, 1996, and many volunteers were recognized during that time. We chose to wait until today to properly honour this year's award winner. At this time, I am pleased to announce the 1996 Outstanding Volunteer Service Award winner: Mr. Peter Flaherty of Grise Fiord.

Mr. Flaherty is being recognized for his dedicated assistance of community residents in need, by helping in any way he can to make the community a better place to live in.

It is my pleasure to invite the Members of the House to join me, members of Peter's family, the MLA for High Arctic, Levi Barnabas, the public and media for a reception in the great hall during our 3:00 p.m. break to honour Mr. Flaherty.

During the reception Mr. Flaherty will receive a number of recognition items, including a framed letter of citation; a commemorative plaque; and, a carving donated by Fort Smith artist, Sonny MacDonald.

Mr. Flaherty's name will be added on the recognition plaque displayed in the foyer of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mrs. Thompson. We will take a 10-minute break.

--- SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. We are on item 3, Ministers' statements. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Page 159

ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Deficit Reduction Strategies Identified In 1996-97 Main Estimates

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to begin by saying that I was very pleased to see Mr. Todd's new traditional Scottish footwear this morning, bringing down his budget; his Scottish golfing shoes.

However, the government still has a \$1 billion budget and we do have the will and desire to do government differently. Doing government differently takes time. Mr. Speaker, no one likes change, but change is coming whether we like it or not. We have to be prepared to respond to these changes in a proactive way.

I think many of the suggestions and ideas announced by the Finance Minister today are indicative of this. However, I feel in some areas, such as the reductions in the capital budgets, we didn't go far enough. We have to base this area of government on community needs and not wants.

In other areas such as the elimination of key regional positions and offices, maybe we went too far. Mr. Speaker, this is the balancing act that we will have to participate in, in the life of the 13th Assembly. The recently announced dollar values for Nunavut is a concern. The continued transitional and incremental costs for Nunavut and the new Western Territory will have to be addressed.

Mr. Speaker, although I tabled the report on the Iqaluit Focus Group yesterday in this House, I had presented copies to the Ministers and Members several days before. I am pleased that some of the recommendations from the report have been included in Mr. Todd's address today.

--- Applause

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to debating the budget in the House over the next few weeks. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Todd's new shoes will be used to run from my debate and I appreciate that. Mr. Speaker, I know Mr. Todd will let me catch up to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Chief Electoral Officer's Role In Thebacha Election Investigation

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I raised some concerns about the election process; in particular, how it was handled in the riding of Thebacha, and what I thought was the fumbling by the Chief Electoral Officer's office in Ottawa.

I am now aware that a letter was received yesterday indicating that the RCMP report has been sent to the Chief Electoral Officer and was received on April 14th. One of the reasons they give for their tardy response is that their work schedule is deterred and deferred by bomb threats. I can only surmise from that that I am not the only individual who has a problem spurring this particular agency to action, even though I don't condone the use of that kind of extreme threat. It would seem that it is an issue with other people in Canada as well.

The letter indicates that hopefully by the middle of May, we should have an answer. I will give them the benefit of that doubt, but I would like to point out that in keeping with the Budget Address and the Premier's comments yesterday, the need to take over control of our own resources and services and to give the Chief Electoral Officer his due. Back in 1991, in his report, he made two recommendations that I think we should act on. Those recommendations are that the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly should take the necessary steps to appoint the Northwest

Territories first resident Chief Electoral Officer and that the territorial Cabinet should enter into negotiations with the Government of Canada for the funding of the administration of elections.

I think it is time we acted on that, so that we never have to go through this again and we can deal with issues in the North, without having to go to some distant far-off office, a last vestige of the old-style colonial government. I will be bringing that forward through the appropriate channels to ensure we pursue that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Concerns Expressed At Yellowknife North Constituency Meeting

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start off by wishing a happy birthday to my mother, Florence Erasmus.

--- Applause

I would like to tell the House about a constituency meeting that I had on April 10th. There were a lot of concerns expressed. When those concerns were expressed, usually someone else brought up a reason why this situation was in existence. Obviously, there are people who understand the situation.

One of things that were discussed was the name change of the Northwest Territories. Some people thought it was a waste of time and money. Community empowerment was a question mark. What has been done so far? Will it eventually create city states throughout the territories? Is that offloading?

Apparently from the municipalities conference in Inuvik, some people were changing their mind about empowerment

Page 160

after there was a workshop held by a southern consultant. In fact, it might be a good idea for Members to hear those concerns that were brought up by that consultant.

There was also support for community empowerment by some of the people there. It was recognized that people have been wanting community empowerment for years. It was also expressed that there is a need to hear hope and enthusiasm and that the government needs to look for alternative sources of funding. Standards should remain for privatization. I am happy to see that the budget announcement has addressed a lot of these issues and there is a plan in place.

I am also happy to report that there was not one question or concern raised regarding MLAs' salaries or pensions. I am also happy to report that there was not one question regarding the transfer of occupational health and safety to the Workers' Compensation Board, except by the media. Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Outbreak Of RSV In Pelly Bay

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a current outbreak of RSV in Pelly Bay, as was the case in Arviat. Mr. Speaker, we have had approximately 20 children flown out of the community of Pelly Bay in the past 10 days or so.

Last night, there was another one medevaced from Pelly Bay. Mr. Speaker, there is a danger of this sickness spreading to other communities within the Territories. At the appropriate time, I will be asking the appropriate Minister what this government is doing to get the outbreak under control. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement On Visit By Hon. Kelvin Ng To Hay River

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is with respect to Mr. Ng's attendance in my community on

April 20th and 21 st. It was my pleasure to host Mr. Ng. We had a very busy schedule we kept. I will outline a few of the things we did.

We started out with a luncheon with the Hay River hospital board, followed by a tour of the hospital facilities. After that, we had a meeting with the medical doctors in Hay River and discussed the challenges of medical doctor recruitment in the North. Many positive suggestions were made in that regard.

Then we went and had a tour of the medical surgical supply business in Hay River. I might also add that they have since been the recipient of the NWT Business of the Year Award. We then visited with the two chiropractors in Hay River who have valid concerns regarding the chiropractic services being uninsured health services in the Northwest Territories.

Following that, we attended a banquet for Dr. Earle Covert who is retiring from medical practice in Hay River after 32 years. I appreciate the fact that Kelvin didn't know Dr. Covert very well, but sat through a five-hour presentation at the head table and spoke most eloquently at the benefit; we really appreciated that.

On Sunday morning, we met with the mayor and the town manager with respect to the hospital transfer to the town of Hay River. Then he had a tour of Hay River, including the Women's Resource Centre, Woodland Manor Seniors' Home, South Mackenzie Correctional Institution, the young offenders' facility and following that, attended a brunch at my home with the Hay River Seniors' Society with approximately 30 people in attendance. So we had a busy time but, again, I was very pleased that a Minister would take the time to come to my community and in this case, particularly, honour Doctor Covert. Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement On NWT's Outstanding Volunteer, Mr. Peter Flaherty

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although we had bad news today, I have good news today. I would like to give very good news. An outstanding citizen of Grise Fiord is being given a high honour today. Mr. Speaker, I

know that there are many people like Peter Flaherty who work selflessly for others out of the goodness of their hearts and without concern about being paid.

What we are celebrating today, Mr. Speaker, is not only the honour being given to Peter Flaherty, but also that our government is conveying a high honour on one of the many people who are doing so much to help others every day of their lives in our communities.

The mayor of Grise Fiord, Jarloo Kigutak, wishes me to express the pride of the entire community of Grise Fiord that one of their most-respected citizens is being recognized in this way. Mayor Kigutak tells me that Peter Flaherty is always helping whoever needs help, every day. He'll show up anywhere, the mayor told me, asking if he can help. Even if not asked, Peter will shovel snow off an elder's steps or help someone preparing for a hunt. Even as a teenager, he was always helping out. He is a very generous man who is outgoing and friendly to all. "Peter has a heart," his oldest sister Martha told me.

Mr. Speaker, Peter is described as mentally challenged. I want to recognize that there are many other people like him in our communities who are not always recognized. Many of them make very important contributions to community life. In our Inuit culture, helping without expectation of reward or recognition is a strong part of our tradition.

Page 161

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for High Arctic is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Conclude your statement. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Elders have been telling us that young people, especially, should be assisting those who need help. This kind of volunteer work will be even more important in the years to come, when government programs cannot go as far as everyone would like.

Mr. Speaker, Martha Flaherty, who is the president of Pauktuutit, the Inuit women's association, is Peter's sister. She and Peter are the oldest in the family of

five girls and four boys. Martha told me that Peter and his family went through a lot of hardship when they were relocated from northern Quebec; in 1955, the same year Peter was born. Martha gives great credit to their father, Josephee, who died in 1984 and their mother, Rynie, for helping the family to survive during those hard times.

Ms. Flaherty also said that as president of Pauktuutit, she believes that it's about time that one of many people who are volunteering to take care of others in our communities are being recognized. She says that many of these volunteers are women who are doing very important work every day helping our government deal with social problems.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in congratulating these many volunteers and today this outstanding constituent, an excellent role model and good example to all the people of the Northwest Territories: Mr. Peter Flaherty. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement On Grand Opening Of Charlie Charlo Centre And Tli Cho Co-op In Rae

MR. RABESCA:

Mr. Speaker, let me start by quoting the mayor of Rae-Edzo, Mayor Dan Marion. I quote: "This is truly a marriage made in heaven." Approximately five years ago, my friend and the president of the Rae-Edzo Dene Band Development Corporation, Charlie Charlo, had a dream to see our people own and operate a modern fully-equipped grocery store. Unfortunately, Charlie was unable to see the results of this dream, as he passed on almost two years ago. Even so, the corporation continued with this quest, and over time were able to receive funding from CAEDS which allowed the corporation to hire the expertise of my colleague, Seamus Henry. With his assistance, they were able to convince the NWT Development Corporation, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the banking community to provide assistance and funding to see this project get off the ground. However, this project still was not able to fly because of the need for professional management, which was not available in my community.

Again, the Band Development Corporation and Seamus went knocking on doors. This time, they went to the Yellowknife Direct Charge Co-op. The response was overwhelming, and in a relatively short period of time, the Yellowknife Direct Charge Co-op and Rae-Edzo Development Corporation had signed a management agreement to be the general managers of a new store and provide training to our people who would be working there.

This proved to be the final piece of the puzzle required to make this proceed. All the lending institutions were pleased to see this come together. Construction started in November of 1995, as well as the training package which was put together by both Aurora College and Arctic Co-operatives Limited, in training local, unskilled residents to perform duties in the new store.

Mr. Speaker, on April 14, 1996, the doors of the Charlie Charlo Centre and Tli Cho Co-op were opened to the public, and the dream of the late Charlie Charlo has become a reality. Mr. Speaker, however, the story does not end here. Of the original 11 trainees who started the program, 10 graduated and seven currently hold full-time jobs.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for North Slave is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do you have any nays? Conclude your statement, Mr. Rabesca.

MR. RABESCA:

The store is able to provide a high quality of service and products that, until now, were only able to be purchased in Yellowknife. This store can easily be comparable to any that are in Yellowknife or in southern Canada. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, if it wasn't for the foresight of the late Charlie Charlo, the planning of the Rae-Edzo Development Corporation and funding by CAEDS to hire my colleague, Seamus Henry, the spirit of cooperation between the NWT Development Corporation, Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the banking community, as well as the overwhelming response by the Yellowknife Direct Charge Co-op, Arctic Co-operatives Limited and Aurora College, this project would have never been able to get off the ground. The community of Rae-Edzo may not have been

fortunate enough to get a building or a store of this quality.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, as you can see, it is possible for government agencies on all levels and private business to work together to make a dream turn into a reality. Again, I would like to quote Dan Marion's saying: "This is truly a marriage made in heaven." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement On Winners Of The NWT Regional Science Fair

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During this past winter, Yellowknife schools held science fairs. This past Monday, a regional science fair was held at the William

Page 162

MacDonald Junior High School where the winners from the individual school fairs were able to demonstrate their science projects.

The regional science fair has been held for a number of years and the sophistication of the projects is increasing each time. There is a certain cost to running science fairs, however. Unfortunately, this year, the fair lost its funding from the NWT Science Institute and was nearly cancelled as a result. However, through the efforts of teachers from various schools who did not want to see this valuable and worthwhile learning experience disbanded, the science fair was held.

I would like to commend and congratulate those teachers and acknowledge the efforts of all staff from all schools; the volunteers from the community who were judges, including a number of staff from the public service, some of whom work here at the Legislative Assembly; the territorial Department of Transportation, who printed certificates for the entrants; and, the many Yellowknife businesses who donated prizes.

I would like to mention the first prize winners in each grade: grade 4 was Elliot Nguyen; grade 5, Kristy Colman; grade 6, John Zaozirny; grade 7, Becky

White; grade 8, John Seeton; grade 9, Ricky Chan. Unfortunately, there were no funds to send the winners to the Canada-wide science fair and I hope this can be rectified in the future. I would like to congratulate all those students who participated in the 1996 science fair.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement On Western Arctic Fuel Resupply Contract

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to briefly make reference to the Budget Address. I note that this document is not complete, as there is no postal code on the address. I will make reference to that later in the week.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House to demonstrate the need for balance, the need to criticize the government when it is warranted. With that right, there also comes the obligation to praise and recognize the government when they take tough stands and do what is right.

One bouquet of roses should be delivered to the present government for a good sound decision. I refer to the decision made by the Department of Public Works and Services, in which they awarded the fuel resupply contract of the Western Arctic to Imperial Oil's refinery in Alberta. This was a good sound decision made on sound financial principles.

I can understand and sympathize with the employees of the Norman Wells refinery that could potentially lose their jobs as a result of the awarding of this contract. It is also my understanding that the Norman Wells refinery is inefficient and slated for shutdown. If you 'can't compete, you have to

shut down. The reality of life is if you can't supply a product at a price your customers can afford, you are going to go out of business.

I have to praise the government for making the decision on a financial basis in conjunction with the welfare of employees who may have to find other work. I would encourage this government to continue along the same lines of procuring goods and services.

Along those lines, I would refer to comments made in this House yesterday where it was stated that of a random selection of 87 purchases made by the GNWT between April 1993 and February 1994, 50 per cent of them were less expensive in the Northwest Territories than their southern competitor. This says to me that we have, after 20 years of government financial support through the business incentive policy, a mature, competitive and private sector where the business incentive policy, at least as it now stands, is unnecessary. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to finish my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we go through this future budget exercise over the next few weeks, I would implore all Members of this House to have another look at the need for this business incentive policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Turbot Fishing Licence Application

MR. ENUARAQ:

Mr. Speaker, recently, applications for licences to fish turbot have been made to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on behalf of Inuit throughout the Baffin region. Mr. Speaker, my constituents and others in the Baffin are seeking rights to catch turbot in what is called area "0," which includes waters in Davis Strait which are next to the communities in which we live.

Our constituents face crippling costs of living, high population growth and high unemployment. They were hit very hard by the damage to the seal industry done by Greenpeace and the animal rights movement in Europe. This has unfortunately caused many of our people to lose hope. The damage done by the animal rights movement has been very depressing for many of our able-bodied citizens.

Unfortunately, apart from opportunities like this in Renewable Resources, there are too few opportunities for employment in the private sector in our region. We are optimistic that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans will grant a quota to Inuit living next to these valuable resources, since article 15 of the Inuit land claims agreement requires that the Government of Canada give special consideration to the principles of ..adjacency and economic dependence of Nunavut communities' in allocating commercial fishing licences. These are our fish in our waters and we deserve our fair

Page 163

share of these resources to provide employment as an alternative to depending on government.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank my fellow Baffin MLAs -- Mr. Picco, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Mr. Barnabas and the Honourable Goo Arlooktoo -- for supporting these applications; the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the wildlife federation for the support for these applications. Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Baffin Central is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Conclude your statement, Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to give my special thanks to the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi and officials from his Department of Renewable Resources for actively supporting the Baffin applications with the Minister. I also appreciate the support we have been given from our MP, Jack Anawak, and the Honourable Ethel Blondin, Minister of State and MP for the Western Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has recently made an announcement about these licences. Mr. Kakfwi has been communicating with his office. Later today, I will be asking Mr. Kakfwi for some questions, decisions and announcements which were recently made by the Minister and what the potential is for further allocations of the Baffin Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 5: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 59-13(3): Difficulties Marketing NWT Arts And Crafts

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in response to a question asked by Mr. Krutko on March 26th regarding difficulties marketing NWT arts and crafts.

The Government of the Northwest Territories, through the Northwest Territories Development Corporation, operates 22 companies including the Fort McPherson Canvas Shop and the Aklavik Fur Shop. There are no individual marketing plans for these subsidiaries because each is too small to absorb the high overhead costs. To solve this problem, a company known as Arctic Canada Wholesale Ltd. was set up as the marketing arm for the light manufacturing and arts and crafts subsidiary companies.

Arctic Canada Wholesale is the key to success for all the arts and crafts subsidiary companies. Although Arctic Canada Wholesale got off to a slow start as funding was severely limited, solutions are being identified and a restructuring plan and comprehensive marketing strategy will be developed.

With respect to the purchase of products made by crafters, the corporation has six agents buying homemade crafts for resale. If individuals are interested in selling to the corporation, they should contact the president or departmental staff who will refer them to the Development Corporation.

The marketing of arts and crafts has been identified as an issue in the business plan developed by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. The department will be working with all major wholesalers, including Arctic Canada Wholesale, to develop a strategy to increase sales of northern arts and craft within and outside Canada.

In the preface to this question, the Member's comments in relation to a newspaper column on the craft show in Inuvik may have left the impression that the Government of the Northwest Territories was responsible for events in Inuvik. The show was organized by an Inuvik business person under contract to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Staff in the Department of Economic Development and Tourism provided the

contractor with some assistance, but were not responsible for the organization of the event and did not provide any funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Return to Question 31-13(3): Funding Assistance For Building and Learning Strategy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Rabesca on March 22, 1996, regarding funding assistance for building and learning strategy.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for North Slave identified a total of \$20,000 as an outstanding claim for 1995-96 building and learning projects in Wha Ti.

For the 1995-96 fiscal year, a building and learning project involving three trainees, and valued at approximately \$65,000, was approved for Wha Ti. On December 7, 1995, the Development Corporation submitted an additional project proposal for consideration. On December 15, 1995, the Building and Management Committee informed the Development Corporation that it did not support this proposal. However, in early February 1996, the Development Corporation submitted a claim for \$13,100 related to the project contemplated in the December 7th proposal.

I have agreed to meet with the honourable Member for North Slave and community representatives from Wha Ti to discuss this issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Barnabas.

ITEM 6: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize Mr. Peter Flaherty of Grise Fiord, who is receiving the award for outstanding volunteer service for 1996 and his mother, Rynie, and his sister, Mary.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize my good friend, James Attagootak, and his wife. Welcome to the Assembly. I recognize them. Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my great pleasure to recognize an old acquaintance and former colleague, who used to be the Dean of the House, Ludy Pudluk.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome back to the Assembly. This is the first time we have to look up. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a constituent from Wrigley, Lorraine Menicoche-Moses. She is a financial administration officer for Pehdzeh Ki First Nation.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Rabesca.

MR. RABESCA:

I would like to recognize my community assistant who was just recently appointed to work with me, Fred Behrens.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if these individuals are still in the gallery, but I will introduce them anyway. Mr. Bogus Zybe from Baker Lake, a local businessman; Mr. Al Lehuer; Mr. David Simailak. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Todd has asked me to introduce some good people from Rankin Inlet: Mr. David Oolooyuk; Mr. Ray Mercer; and, Mr. Ron Roach.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a constituent of mine, someone who is a great volunteer in the community and who volunteers for storefront and mental health; Kathryn Youngblut.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Sue Enge, who works at the Legislative Assembly. Sue is also the president of the Native Communications Society.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to recognize a senior RCMP officer in the gallery. Welcome to the assembly.

--- Applause

I would like to tell Members that we have been requested to take a break in order for some award presentations to be done in the great hall. I would also like to say please come back at the ringing of the bells. The mace is still on top of the stand, so respect

the Chamber when you move out of here. We will take a 10-minute break.

--- SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 121-13(3): Turbot Fishing Quota Application

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my Member's statement today, I am grateful for the support which has been given to Inuit in the Baffin region applying for quotas to fish for turbot in Baffin waters, by the Minister of Renewable Resources. Can the Minister inform this House of the decision recently made by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on the application from Baffin Inuit for the right to fish for 3,000 tonnes of turbot on area O? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 121-13(3): Turbot Fishing Quota Application

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announced on April 22nd, that allocations for northern participation in the Greenland Halibut Fishery for 1996 was a total quota of area OA of 5,500 tonnes; an in-shore quota for Inuit of 1,000 tonnes and off-shore for Inuit of 500 tonnes. This represents an increase of 100 tonnes over the previous year for northern participants. That is still 500 tonnes less than what was requested.

The remainder of the quota was allocated as follows: for licensed groundfish holders, it's 1,500 tonnes; for Seaku Fisheries of northern Quebec, 70 tonnes; Nunavik Arctic Foods of northern Quebec, 70 tonnes; Labrador Inuit Development Corporation, 70 tonnes; Torngat Co-op of Labrador, 160 tonnes; Clearwater Fine Foods of Nova Scotia,

230 tonnes; and, Seafreez Foods Incorporated of Nova Scotia, 1,900 tonnes.

Although the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, along with the Baffin Industry Groundfish Committee and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board had recommended a greater share for allocation of northern fishermen, the federal Fisheries Minister alone determines these allocations and that is what his decision was at the time; although I had, as well, recommended the recommendations of the Baffin organizations in a letter that I had sent to the Minister. I am still hopeful that the Minister will allow the exploratory fishery -- recommended by the Baffin organizations for up to 2,000 tonnes -- to proceed in area OB which is North Baffin.

I have renewed my request again to meet with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans as soon as possible regarding our interest in this matter, along with the need to discuss other issues that we have concerning fisheries with the Minister as soon as possible. The meeting last week was cancelled due to my need to attend some funerals, as well as the very limited time available that the Minister's staff had indicated to us late last week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Enuaraq.

Supplementary To Question 121-13(3): Turbot Fishing Quota Application

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister plan to meet with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and discuss Baffin licence allocations? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 121-13(3): Turbot Fishing Quota Application

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the meeting is requested of the Minister, in asking that sufficient time be given to us to address all the issues that we have outstanding regarding fisheries. Officials are presently in contact with the Minister's office in Ottawa to set up an appropriate time in the next week or so. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 122-13(3): Elimination Of Federal Funding For Administration And Electricity Costs

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. My question is tied indirectly to Mr. Todd's budget speech. Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has advised the NWT Housing Corporation that effective immediately they consider domestic electricity and local housing organization administration expenses to be ineligible for cost sharing in their agreement on social housing in the NWT. Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the dollar amount that we're talking about here could be as much as \$10 million. Can the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation confirm whether or not this is the case

and, if so, how he plans to deal with this situation?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 122-13(3): Elimination Of Federal Funding For Administration And Electricity Costs

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, it is true that on March 29th, CMHC advised the NWT Housing Corporation that they will no longer include the costs of the electricity to tenants and administration costs for local housing organizations ... They will no longer share those costs between our two governments. Mr. Speaker, when this happened, it caused great concern to myself and to Cabinet. As the Member said, this could mean a loss of up to \$10 million on top of what we are already losing. This was effective on April 1st, the next business day.

Upon receiving this notice, I immediately directed our corporation to meet with CMHC to try to work things out. So this past Monday, April 29th, the president of the NWT Housing Corporation, Joe Handley, met with senior officials of CMHC in Ottawa on this issue. I

also travelled to Ottawa and I was able to speak personally to the federal Minister responsible for CMHC, the Honourable Diane Marleau. We have agreed that our officials will begin meeting in Yellowknife on the 22nd of this month, and will continue until this matter is resolved. Ms. Marleau and I are optimistic that this matter can be resolved without substantial increases in costs to the NWT Housing Corporation.

CMHC has also agreed to postpone the implementation of their proposed changes until at least June 30th, to allow time for these issues to be resolved.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 123-13(3): Legal Aspects Of Federal Reductions In Housing Subsidies

MR. RABESCA:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. I am quite concerned about the effects this decision by CMHC would have on my communities. I am pleased to hear that the Minister has arranged for additional talks and to try and resolve this issue. Mr. Speaker, we have had these agreements for many years, and I am sure there must be legalities involved here. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not he has examined the legal aspects of these contracts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 123-13(3): Legal Aspects Of Federal Reductions In Housing Subsidies

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that agreements between the NWT Housing Corporation and CMHC for both capital and ongoing maintenance costs are partnership agreements that have been in place for many years and will continue for up to 40

Page 166

more years until there is mutual agreement to change. To answer the Member's question further, I do not

believe CMHC has simply and unilaterally made the changes that they outlined, so I've asked the NWT Housing Corporation to seek a formal legal opinion on the existing social housing agreements.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Question 124-13(3): Status Of Article 24 Negotiations

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Deputy Premier. For a long time, Nunavut residents have been waiting for the northern accord agreement. We are trying to find out how many more people can gain employment from the GNWT and also for economic development, and to be able to set up their own businesses. When is the territorial government going to establish this policy regarding article 24?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 124-13(3): Status Of Article 24 Negotiations

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

(Translation) The question the Member is posing regarding article 24 is one of the most important clauses in the Nunavut agreement. I would like to inform the Member that we are talking about article 24, which is being recognized by this government. We will be following all our agreements and honouring all our contracts. When Nunavut Caucus is meeting after the session, I will be informing them further and update them on information regarding this matter.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 125-13(3): Renegotiation Of Formula Financing Agreement

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. We have heard over the past few months from this government that one of the main reasons why our transfers from the federal government have decreased is because of the

perversity factor built into our formula financing agreement. This means that when southern jurisdictions reduce their spending we, in turn, have a reduction in our grant. Will the Minister be approaching the federal government to somehow try and renegotiate said formula, because of our growing accumulated deficit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 125-13(3): Renegotiation Of Formula Financing Agreement

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 125-13(3): Renegotiation Of Formula Financing Agreement

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, it can never be said that Mr. Todd is a man of few words. Mr. Speaker, have the Minister and his officials reviewed the implications of major reductions in spending by southern jurisdictions, like Quebec, that will impact on our federal cash transfers?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 125-13(3): Renegotiation Of Formula Financing Agreement

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we're well aware of the implications of the deficit reduction strategy that was put in place in Ontario and the impact it had on our revenues. We're also aware that depending on what happens with the current deficit reduction strategy by Mr. Bouchard in Quebec -- who has a \$3 billion deficit -- if he does take the same dramatic steps that his counterpart in Ontario took, it could have and will have a serious impact on our revenue formula agreement. However, I have communicated with Mr. Martin, the Minister of Finance for the country, and it's one of the issues that I will be dealing with him on

when I meet with him later this month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 125-13(3):
Renegotiation Of Formula Financing Agreement

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT raises roughly 11 per cent of the money that we expend. Will the Minister also take our case of continued transfer reductions to other jurisdictions to build support for our unique position, because of our low revenue-generating ability at the present time?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 125-13(3): Renegotiation
Of Formula Financing Agreement

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't myself initiated any discussions with other provincial jurisdictions, but I know the Premier has spoken with the Honourable Ralph Klein and the Honourable Roy Romanow to ensure that we have some provincial leaders who are sympathetic to our position; not just in our deficit strategy, but also on other issues related to this government like the accord, like investment, at cetera. So it is our intention in the coming months to work very aggressively, through partnerships with our provincial colleagues, to try to seek their support in some of the initiatives that we're taking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 126-13(3): Restructuring Of Public Works
And Services

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Public Works and Services. I was

Page 167

wondering if the Minister could update the House on some of the changes that are under way with Public Works and Services, over and above what was in the business plans in terms of restructuring and reworking the department. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 126-13(3): Restructuring Of
Public Works And Services

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Public Works, like all government departments, is participating in delayering of management positions and efficiency movement. At the present time, here at headquarters, we have eliminated two ADM positions. We've reduced the number of directors from eight to five, and there are further reductions proposed.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger,

Supplementary To Question 126-13(3): Restructuring
Of Public Works And Services

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate whether these changes are going to affect the whole length and breadth of this department, or is it just a headquarters restructuring? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 126-13(3): Restructuring
Of Public Works And Services

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the restructuring is department wide. We are beginning with positions at headquarters, and down the road with consultation with the rest of Cabinet, there will be further changes in regional offices also.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr.

Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 126-13(3): Restructuring Of Public Works And Services

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate whether the appropriate committee, as well, will be involved in this restructuring of this major department? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 126-13(3): Restructuring Of Public Works And Services

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I was planning to provide the Standing Committee on Infrastructure with a briefing note on the restructuring plans and what has been done to date. I will be prepared to go through some of the detail during the budget review.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 126-13(3): Restructuring Of Public Works And Services

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister be able to provide, during that period, specific numbers in terms of reductions, so for those of us who have experienced some significant cuts, we would be able to add them to our list to see how the numbers shake out overall? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 126-13(3): Restructuring Of Public Works And Services

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the short answer is yes. To the extent that we can, we will provide as much information as we can.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 127-13(3): RSV Outbreak In Pelly Bay

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my Member's statement earlier regarding the outbreak of RSV in Pelly Bay, there are about 25 cases reported so far. I would like to begin, Mr. Speaker, by saying that we, the residents of the NWT, enjoy one of the best health care systems the country can offer; however, there are times that we become aware of how much the government and the system assists, and sometimes we take everything for granted in the system. What is the government doing to ensure that the outbreak of RSV in Pelly Bay does not spread to another community within the Territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 127-13(3): RSV Outbreak In Pelly

Bay

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with respect to the disease spreading, from what I understand, the local community has been advised by local radio about being cautious and not having large gatherings and keeping personal hygiene habits of cleanliness. As far as controlling the spread, we can't control the flow of people but we can monitor to make sure the situation is under control. I know that the medical health officer has been in direct contact with health board officials who are responsible for delivering health services in our region. The health board has sent in an additional nurse practitioner to assist the local Pelly Bay staff in dealing with the increased workload and provide general support.

So we are carefully monitoring the situation, Mr. Speaker. We will be willing to provide any additional support, if it is required.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Page 168

Supplementary To Question 127-13(3): RSV
Outbreak In Pelly Bay

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past years, Mr. Speaker, there have been cases across the Territories where sometimes the patients who are brought to the nursing stations aren't being brought to a major medical centre until the disease is advanced. Will the Minister tell this House, as a precautionary measure, if there is a way to diagnose the disease before it becomes too late and so the patients are sent to Yellowknife as soon as possible? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 127-13(3): RSV
Outbreak In Pelly Bay

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess it would go back to a healthy prevention promotion campaign on personal hygiene habits. There is a difficulty in our communities because of overcrowding, particularly in the wintertime when people are visiting. Incubation period takes a while and once it hits, it spreads very quickly, similar to the common cold. It would be a matter of putting an emphasis on identifying the disease when it hits early and trying to rectify it by putting in preventative measures. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Question 128-13(3): Process For Oil Spill Clean-up In
Igloodik

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of NTPC. Mr. Speaker, the Minister said in this House yesterday that with the continuing clean-up of fuel oil in Igloodik, they had recovered 20,000 litres of fuel to date. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister inform this House how NTPC intends on getting rid of the collected fuel?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of the NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 128-13(3): Process For Oil Spill
Cleanup In Igloodik

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the snow which is contaminated with fuel will be put in a separate pit that will be made and lined with plastic, so that the oil can be collected after the snow has melted. The local community is being encouraged to take the oil for use in their furnaces because the oil will no longer be suitable for use in the engines of the corporation. So members of the community are welcome to take the oil for use at their homes.

Until we know how much fuel we have collected, I can't say what further measures will have to be taken to dispose of the oil. But I can assure the Member that in any case, the disposal of oil collected will be handled in order to make sure there is no further damage done to the environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Supplementary To Question 128-13(3): Process For
Oil Spill Clean-up In Igloodik

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister looked at providing compensation to Igloodik because of said spill?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 128-13(3): Process For
Oil Spill Clean-up In Igloodik

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Mr. Speaker, the issue of compensation will have to be looked at following an evaluation of what damages have occurred. At this point in time, there are people in the communities who have gotten jobs to assist in the clean-up. We will try to make sure that any economic initiatives in the clean-up go to local residents as much as possible. Until we know the extent of damages, we can't talk about compensation.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Supplementary To Question 128-13(3): Process For Oil Spill Clean-up In Igloodik

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, when does the Minister anticipate the fuel will be recovered from the spill?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 128-13(3): Process For Oil Spill Clean-up In Igloodik

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That answer depends largely on the progress of the weather in the area. It won't be completed until snow melts and we are able to get to the ground. We are hoping the corporation will be able to pick up as much of the oil as possible before the ground thaws, so there is very little in the way of oil that seeps into the ground. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Supplementary To Question 128-13(3): Process For Oil Spill Clean-up In Igloodik

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister commit to informing this House, hopefully daily, on the status of the clean-up, so the public might be informed instead of hearing rumours? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 128-13(3): Process For Oil Spill Clean-up In Igloodik

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to keeping the Member, in particular, informed on a daily basis and this House, as appropriate, as we proceed along with the clean-up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Page 169

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Minister of Finance, but he seems to have gone. So I will have to...

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 129-13(3): Delivery Of Social Programs To NWT Residents

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng. I would like to know what the practice of this

government is when it comes to delivering programs - - such as alcohol and drug programs -- to non-status, status, Metis and non-native people.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 129-13(3): Delivery Of Social Programs To NWT Residents

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are five treatment centres throughout the Northwest Territories. Depending on where the individual would be, if they required treatment, they would be referred to one of those facilities.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 129-13(3): Delivery Of Social Programs To NWT Residents

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If that is the case, why are Metis people, especially in my community of Fort McPherson, not allowed to partake in the Tl'oondih

Healing Camp, which is 20 miles south of the community. They are sent elsewhere. Why is that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 129-13(3): Delivery Of Social Programs To NWT Residents

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure about the specifics with respect to the treatment of Metis residents, particularly to the Tl'oondih operation. It is a newer facility. I will have to get that information and advise the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 129-13(3): Delivery Of Social Programs To NWT Residents

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this day and age, when we are talking about working together and when it comes to aboriginal issues, of being able to work along with the other aboriginal groups for delivery of programs and services, it sort of feels like we're going back in time where we're isolating aboriginal groups based on identity. I feel that this government should do away with that practice, especially when it comes to cost savings. It will be a lot cheaper for government to put someone into a program

which is 20 miles south of a community, than sending them to Hay River which is almost 1,000 miles away.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 129-13(3): Delivery Of Social Programs To NWT Residents

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess I would concur with that statement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 130-13(3): Rent Paid By Elders In Personal Care Facilities

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in a question from Mr. Erasmus put to the Health Minister, the Health Minister confirmed that rent charged to our elders in senior citizens' homes is to be increased to \$712 a month. Mr. Speaker, this has caused much concern in my riding. Can the Minister inform this House if there is a maximum and a minimum that elders will pay, based on their income? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 130-13(3): Rent Paid By Elders In Personal Care Facilities

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I responded to the honourable Member, Mr. Erasmus, yesterday, the intent is that the maximum will be \$712, given that there will be approximately \$200 of disposable income for every resident utilizing those services. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 130-13(3): Rent Paid By Elders In Personal Care Facilities

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, the proposal to allow each elder a disposable income of \$200 a month territorial-wide may cause considerable hardship for our elders. Two hundred dollars is not very much, Mr. Speaker, especially when a lot of our elders are taking care of extended families. The only income that some families have is the money that the elders bring in. Will the Minister be reviewing these amounts, based on the different costs of living in the NWT? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 130-13(3): Rent Paid By Elders In Personal Care Facilities

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I will not, because the standardized rate of \$712 was set for room and board. There are additional costs over and above that that are not charged out for the care portion of it. The \$712 is for room and board charges. Thank you.

Page 170

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 130-13(3): Rent Paid By Elders In Personal Care Facilities

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, I was very disappointed to hear that. Mr. Speaker, is there a formula in place to come up with the minimum amount that the department now is using of \$200 in one of these facilities and how is that arrived at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 130-13(3): Rent Paid By Elders In Personal Care Facilities

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the amount was determined in discussion with the Standing Committee on Social Programs. The rate of \$712 was felt to be a fair rate, given that it was based on taking the average of the lowest provincial and other territorial rates within Canada. Just to make it clear that it isn't an increase for some residents. Some residents who were in level III and IV facilities actually had a decrease of their room and board charges under this new standardization rate, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 131-13(3): Alternatives To Incarceration At Community Level

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. Could the Minister inform this

House of what type of specific options there are to divert people from jail at the community level?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 131-13(3): Alternatives To incarceration At Community Level

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess it would depend on the classification of the sentencing. But as it stands now, my understanding is that individuals could be afforded temporary absences within their communities if they had the facilities within those communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 132-13(3): Funding To Co-ops For Credit Unions

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday a question was asked that unavoidably could not be answered. Today, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking that same question in a little different light. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Recently, the GNWT withdrew the commitment of \$400,000 to the Arctic Co-ops to help set up a credit union. Mr. Speaker, these monies had to be reallocated because of the sunset clause with the EDA agreement, which was the federal agreement. Has the Minister identified other sources of funds to continue said commitment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 132-13(3): Funding To Co-ops For Credit Unions

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been no further discussion with the co-ops regarding that present initiative, although there has been an invitation extended to me to attend some functions with them

next week and we will, perhaps, be having some discussions about their initiatives they may have that would require some attention on the part of the department. So I am unable to respond specifically to that question since I'm not certain of the status of that initiative, since I think the resources that were allocated by this government and other sources were sunsetted and the deadlines for completion of a package has passed some time ago. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you.

Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister commit that when his department has the understanding or the idea when this commitment could be made, will he come back and inform this House so we will be aware of the commitment?

MR. SPEAKER:

Can I ask the Member to rephrase his question, to maybe request of the Minister some time lines?

Supplementary To Question 132-13(3): Funding To Co-ops For Credit Unions

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will attempt to rephrase my question.

--- Interjection

MR. PICCO:

No, I will not be co-opted, Mr. Speaker. When does the Minister expect said funds to be in place?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 132-13(3): Funding To Co-ops For Credit Unions

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I'm not certain about the status of the initiatives that brought on the questions. I'm not certain about any present allocation for resources that

might be awaiting renewed initiatives on that particular part of the economy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Picco. Is this to the same Minister?

Supplementary To Question 132-13(3): Funding To Co-ops For Credit Unions

MR. PICCO:

Yes, it's a supplementary question. Maybe I should just backtrack and try again.

--Interjection

Page 171

MR. PICCO: I am consistent. I'm a model of consistency. The government had committed \$400,000 to the Arctic Coops to help out with the credit union. Now because of the sunset agreement under the EDA, that was taken away. Has the government looked at replacing this \$400,000 that was committed to the Arctic Co-ops from somewhere else within the consolidated revenue fund of the GNWT?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 132-13(3): Funding To Co-ops For Credit Unions

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, as far as I know, the answer is no. That initiative is no longer on the table and no one has sent any letters to my office indicating that initiative would be followed up through any other avenue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 133-13(3): Public Input On Business Incentive Policy

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance in response to a remark he made in his address on the budget today. This concerns our very valuable program, the business incentive policy,

which the government uses to encourage northern businesses. The Minister indicated that the government is currently reviewing this policy and is considering revisions. I am glad to hear that. I just wanted to find out if the government is still accepting opinions and recommendations from the public. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 133-13(3): Public Input On Business Incentive Policy

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my understanding is we are still accepting opinions on the changes on revisions that the public at large would like to see to our business incentive policy to ensure that we protect and continue to increase the involvement of northern businesses in purchasing goods and services to this government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 133-13(3): Public Input On Business Incentive Policy

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will there be any more public meetings or sessions on this issue?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Given the recent events, the responsibility for the business incentive policy has moved from Mr. Arlooktoo to Mr. Kakfwi. I would prefer to take that question as notice, so we can answer it in a correct and proper way.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The question is taken as notice. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6.

MR. SPEAKER:

It is very unusual to have a Member seek unanimous consent while we are still on one item. But maybe your friends are waiting to go, so we will allow it this time. The Member for Kivallivik is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. O'Brien, you have unanimous consent.

REVERT TO ITEM 6: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your understanding. Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce some of the business people from Baker Lake who are here today in the flesh: Mr. Bogus Zybe, Mr. Al Lehuier, Mr. David Simailak and the newly-elected president of the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Glen McLean.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly don't want to be outdone, so I would like to introduce David Ooolooyuk, who is very active in the economic community in the Keewatin; Ray Mercer, a good friend of mine for the last 30 years and currently deputy chair of the Public Utilities Board; and, last but not least, the guy who is to blame for me being here, Ron Roach, who ran my campaign.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Again, while we had unanimous consent to go back to item 6, the clock is still ticking for question period. We don't stop because of unanimous consent being given. The clock runs for one hour and the Members are given the opportunity during that one hour to ask questions. It is very unusual for a Member to take some time and seek unanimous consent to go back to an item. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

REVERT TO ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 134-13(3): Review Of Transfer Of Arctic College Programs

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister giving me a copy of the cost analysis of the transfer of college programs in Iqaluit, as promised. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister table said document in the House for public review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

I

Page 172

Return To Question 134-13(3): Review Of Transfer Of Arctic College Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess there is no reason I couldn't table that document. I would be happy to do that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 134-13(3): Review Of Transfer Of Arctic College Programs

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have had some time to go over the cost analysis. There was no mention of logistic costs such as travel for students to and from said destinations and also the cost of your kitchen staff to provide food for said students. Mr. Speaker, what are these costs?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 134-13(3): Review Of Transfer Of Arctic College Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that there would be any additional costs. We would be moving students to the Iqaluit campus from communities such as Cambridge and Rankin. In future, we will be moving students to Rankin from communities such as Pond Inlet and Cambridge. That is a normal course of events. Students have to move around to get their courses in the North.

I believe the Member's second question had to do with catering. Again, the cost of catering, whether it is offered in one community or another, would not tend to be significantly different.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 134-13(3): Review Of Transfer Of Arctic College Programs

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question wasn't if they were going to be similar or not similar. My question was if the cost was factored into the analysis. I didn't see the costs there. My question is, if we don't know what the costs are ... I will phrase it differently. Why weren't they factored in?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 134-13(3): Review Of Transfer Of Arctic College Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Mr. Speaker, the costs are not considered part of the base funding for Iqaluit, so why would they be considered part of the base funding for the move to Rankin Inlet? The question doesn't really apply because you are talking about student support. That comes out of a totally different area. We provide the student support, whether students are going to school in Yellowknife, Iqaluit or Rankin Inlet.

MR. SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 134-13(3): Review Of Transfer Of Arctic College Programs

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, I am not against the decentralization of programs, as I have said in this House many times. I am saying if the cost is prohibited, as the Minister said, I am trying to find out what the costs are. We all know if there are adult students living in a residence, it is going to cost money to feed these people. That would be a cost in the transfer. If the program is offered in a different location now, those costs would have to be factored in. That is why my question is about the cost of the food, the other things that I talked about, et cetera. I understand student support, but the whole point of this transfer is that it wouldn't cost the college any extra money out of its base funds. The Minister just told me it wouldn't come out of base funds, it would come out of other money. If it is coming out of the other funds, there is only X number of dollars for student support, so where are those dollars and how much are they in the cost analysis. If it isn't there, where are they? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 134-13(3): Review Of Transfer Of Arctic College Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the cost of students' eating isn't part of the college's budget, so it isn't considered part of the cost of moving the college. Students have to eat no matter where they are going to school; whether it's the University of Alberta or the Aurora Campus in Inuvik. The bottom line is that is not considered part of the college cost; that's a part of the student's support that we provide. It isn't something that would be figured in the cost of a move like this.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 135-13(3): Funding To Arctic Co-ops For Establishment Of Credit Unions

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the honourable Minister of Finance. In his statement, the Minister of Finance talked about creative partnership, private sector business investment strategy, and also talked about community economic development, education and jobs. Mr. Speaker, within

the jurisdiction of this government, the co-ops are the second highest employers in the jurisdiction. Every community across the Territories, especially in the Eastern Arctic, has co-ops. The Arctic Co-ops, for the past 10 years now, has been endeavouring to create more jobs and more investment in the area of creating a credit union. Will the honourable Minister seriously look at funding the request from the Arctic Co-ops, as my honourable colleague has mentioned, in the area of \$400,000? We are talking about job creation, we are talking about education, we are talking about community development. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance.

Page 173

Return To Question 135-13(3): Funding To Arctic Co-ops For Establishment Of Credit Unions

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do recognize the importance of the cooperative movement across the Territories and the significant contribution it makes to employment and services in our communities. I'm prepared to sit down with my honourable colleague, Mr. Kakfwi, and see if there is anything we can do with this important initiative that seems to have come to a grinding halt. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 135-13(3): Funding To Arctic Co-ops For Establishment Of Credit Unions

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the same Minister. How soon will the honourable Minister talk with his colleague from Economic Development?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 135-13(3): Funding To Arctic Co-ops For Establishment Of Credit Unions

HON. JOHN TODD:

As we speak, Mr. Speaker, as we speak. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 136-13(3): Warning Labels On Liquor Bottles

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just trying to get in the gap there before Mr. Picco had his hand back up.

--- Laughter

The question I was about to ask, plus my supplementary, I think should just about run out the clock. My question is to the Minister of Safety and Public Services. I understand that there is a federal parliamentary committee looking at the warning labels on alcohol. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to the House whether he will be making a presentation to this House and will it be strongly supportive of the initiative. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Safety and Public Services, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 136-13(3): Warning Labels On Liquor Bottles

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the Parliament of Canada there is a private Member's bill before the House that is going to go before a standing committee next week. There is a hearing in Ottawa on May the 9th that we are invited to. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend because of prior commitments. I have asked my honourable colleague, Mr. Floyd Roland, to attend this hearing on my behalf, along with the staff of Safety and

Public Services, to deliver a presentation to this subcommittee. Mr. Speaker, we are the only jurisdiction in Canada that puts health warning labels on alcohol containers. We do that out of our own pocket. The private Member's bill is to try to get the manufacturers of alcohol to put the labels on the containers themselves.

Yes, I'm a strong supporter of this initiative and the message that my honourable colleague delivers to the subcommittee will indicate that we are in strong support of the private Member's bill. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 136-13(3): Warning Labels On Liquor Bottles

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud the Minister's initiative and commitment to this particular issue. I have some concerns, having seen earlier today a press release indicating that the federal Minister, Mr. Dingwall himself, personally is very lukewarm to this initiative. I was wondering if the Minister would be able to somehow supplement his presentation so that my honourable colleague from Inuvik can help offset that tepid support and try to win the day for the importance of this particular initiative. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 136-13(3): Warning Labels On Liquor Bottles

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am told by officials of the Department of Safety and Public Services that there is a strong lobby in process that is opposed to the private Member's bill by the liquor industry. It seems that the federal Minister responsible for that portfolio is wavering on his support for this private Member's bill. It's going to be a very big initiative for us to go to Ottawa and make the presentation in support of the liquor warning labels being funded by the liquor industry rather than by the different governments in the different jurisdictions such as we are doing here. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 136-13(3): Warning Labels On Liquor Bottles

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the Minister to indicate whether my colleague from Inuvik, Mr. Roland, will be given support staff to aid him in his impassioned support of this particular initiative so that

he can field questions from the people who may not support this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Page 174

Further Return To Question 136-13(3): Warning Labels On Liquor Bottles

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, Mr. Roland could probably handle this on his own but we will provide all the necessary backup information and staff when he goes down to Ottawa on our behalf. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 137-13(3): Legislation Prohibiting Consumption Of Alcohol By Pregnant Women

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Safety and Public Services. Further to Mr. Miltenberger's questions, I was wondering if the Minister had considered ... I know that there is a lot of concern for fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effect and I was wondering if the Minister would consider making it illegal for pregnant women to drink. I know that the Dene Nation had passed a motion supporting this initiative a year or so ago. I was just wondering if the Minister has considered this.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Safety and Public Services, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question from the honourable Member for Yellowknife North is a very serious question for any government to undertake. I would like to take this question as notice so that we could carefully look at the background of the information and get back to

him at a later time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 138-13(3): Support For Labelling Of Liquor Bottles

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. In light of the trip coming up, would the Minister of Health endorse the stand we're taking as the territorial government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 138-13(3): Support For Labelling Of Liquor Bottles

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a government position that the Minister of Safety and Public Services and his staff are putting forward; and yourself, on our behalf, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question period is now over. To remind Members, I know I have allowed Mr. Picco to ask further questions, but I am trying to even out question period, so all Members are given the same equal opportunities.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address.

Item 11, replies to Budget Address. Item 12, petitions. Mr. Barnabas.

ITEM 12: PETITIONS

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present Petition No. 13-13(3), dealing with the matter of a plebiscite on liquor control. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 41 signatures and, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners say, "We, the citizens of Resolute Bay, hereby request to hold a plebiscite in the hamlet of

Resolute Bay to further our options pertaining to the control of liquor." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 12, petitions. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present Petition No. 14-13(3), dealing with the matter of the transfer of occupational health and safety to the Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains three signatures and, Mr. Speaker, petitioners request, "An immediate halt should be put on the process and an immediate, in-depth public review involving both business and labour should be initiated and that an actuarial review should also be undertaken."

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of standing and special committees. Item 14, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 15, tabling of documents. Mr. Erasmus.

ITEM 15: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 27-13(3), three letters in opposition to funding reductions to the Yellowknife Education District No. 1. The letters are from Mr. Ric Bolivar, Ms. Emily Morash and Mr. Nick Sukalowski .

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 15, tabling of documents. Mr. Ootes,

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 28-13(3); a number of letters I received regarding the proposal to choose a new name for the Western Territory. The letters in the package are from W R Powless of Yellowknife, Bruno Jaurnell of Yellowknife, Erik Watt of Yellowknife, on behalf of Spirit YK. There are three letters. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 15, tabling of documents. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 29-13(3), concerning question period. Mr. Speaker, this tabled document states that question period should be extended for a duration allowing each Member a chance to ask as many questions as needed for the democratic process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Are you challenging the chair? I will have to look at the tabled document further before the chair makes any kind of ruling regarding the tabled document. It will be reviewed. Item 15, tabling of documents. Item 16, notices of motion. Item 17, notices of motions for first reading of

Page 175

bills. Item 18, motions. Item 19, first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to proceed with the first reading of Bill 10. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 10...

--- Interjection

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 10. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Todd.

ITEM 19: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 10: Budget Measures Implementation Act, 1996-97

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 10, Budget Measures Implementation Act, 1996-97, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

--- Carried

Bill 10 has had first reading. Item 19, first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 11 .

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Finance Minister is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Bill 11. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Todd.

Bill 11: Appropriation Act, 1996-97

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 11, Appropriation Act, 1996-97, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

Bill 11 has had first reading. Item 19, first reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 12.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Health is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Bill 12. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Ng.

Bill 12: Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act, No. 2

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, I move. seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 12, Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 12 has had first reading. Item 19, first reading of bills. Item 20, second reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to proceed with the second reading of Bill 10.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Finance Minister is seeking consent. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Todd.

ITEM 20: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 10: Budget Measures Implementation Act, 1996-97

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 10, Budget Measures Implementation Act, 1996-97, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes legislative changes to enable the Government of the Northwest Territories to implement the budget for the 1996-97 fiscal year. The bill amends a number of acts and repeals two acts. The amendments and repeal provisions are placed in separate schedules organized by subject matter.

The Deficit Elimination Act is amended to provide that the deficit for the 1996-97 fiscal year must not exceed \$45 million. The deficit for the 1997-98 fiscal year must not exceed two per cent of revenues and there must not be a deficit in the 1998-99 fiscal year. If deficit targets are exceeded in either the 1996-97 or 1997-98 fiscal years, the budget must be adjusted by an offsetting amount in the next fiscal year.

The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act is amended to replace the Conflict of Interest Commission with a single Conflict of Interest Commissioner who has the authority to conduct hearings into complaints against Members of the Legislative Assembly. The Conflict of

Page 176

Interest Commissioner will have the discretion to refuse to conduct a hearing into a complaint where he or she considers that the complaint is frivolous or was not filed in good faith or where there are insufficient grounds to warrant the hearing.

The Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act is amended to change the vesting period for a pension to four years or a full term of the Legislative Assembly.

The Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act is amended to change the vesting period for a supplementary pension for returning Members to six years or a full term of the Legislative Assembly and to end the supplementary plan in respect of all new and future Members of the Legislative Assembly. An amount equal to the amount contributed by the new Members under the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act plus interest will be paid out to new Members when they cease their service as Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Both the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act are amended to allow a Member or former Member who does not have a spouse or dependent child to designate a beneficiary to receive a lump sum payment when the Member or former Member dies. This will apply in the case of a Member or former Member who has not received an allowance before he or she dies, as well as in the case of a Member who is receiving an allowance when he or she dies.

It's kind of morbid, isn't it, talking about death?

Regional councils established by the Regional Councils Act are dissolved. Assets and liabilities are transferred to the Government of the Northwest Territories, but the Minister is authorized to distribute assets to municipalities, settlements, bands and other organizations that provide public services within the area previously served by the regional council.

A repeal of the Regional Councils Act will be brought into effect by a Commissioner's order. The Lotteries Act will be consequentially amended at that time to remove a reference to regional councils.

The Charter Communities Act and the Hamlets Act are amended to remove the requirement for ministerial approval of a by-law that levies charges for water supply or for the use of a sewage or drainage system.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act is repealed on June 1, 1996. The act will continue to apply to existing compensation awards and to claims that have been made, but not determined, before June 1, 1996.

And I'm putting my colleagues to sleep.

The Legal Services Act is amended to provide that the provision of legal aid may be limited to the payment of disbursements.

The Condominium Act is amended to permit the owner of a leasehold estate in land to establish a condominium.

The Workers' Compensation Act is amended to transfer responsibility for the administration of the Mine Health and Safety Act, the Safety Act and the Explosives Use Act from the Department of Safety and Public Services to the Workers' Compensation Board. A number of minor amendments are made to the Explosives Use Act, the Mine Health and Safety Act and the Safety Act to accord with this transfer of responsibility.

Thank you for your patience, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

--- Carried

Bill 10 has had second reading and, accordingly, is ordered to a standing committee.

Item 20, second reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

Bill 11: Appropriation Act, 1996-97

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 11, Appropriation Act, 1996-97, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of the Northwest Territories to meet operations and maintenance expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1997. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

--- Carried

Bill 11 has had second reading and, accordingly, stands ordered to Committee of the Whole.

Item 20, second reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 12. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Bill 12. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Ng.

Page 177

Bill 12: Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act, No. 2

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 12, Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act to require a Member of the Legislative Assembly to file a supplemental disclosure statement where there is a change in his or her financial circumstances as reported in the annual disclosure statement. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly will then prepare a supplemental public disclosure statement for public records. This bill also makes a number of minor amendments to the act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

--- Carried

Bill 12 has had second reading and, accordingly, stands ordered to a standing committee.

Item 20, second reading of bills. Item 21, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Item 22, report of Committee of the Whole. Item 23, third reading of bills. Item 24, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 24: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Nunavut Caucus at 5:15 p.m. this evening.

Orders of the day for Friday, May 3, 1996:

1 . Prayer

2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 13, Loan Authorization Act, 1996-97
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 11, Appropriation Act, 1996-97
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, May 3, 1996, at 10:00 a.m.

--- ADJOURNMENT