



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3rd Session

Day %\$

13th Assembly

HANSARD

: F =85M' A 5M' ž 1996

Pages %79!%08
Pagination reflects print edition

The Honourable Samuel Gargan, Speaker

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1996

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Jim Antoine, Hon. Goo Arlooktoo, 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. Ootes, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Hon. Manito Thompson, Hon. John Todd

ITEM 1: PRAYER

--- Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Good morning. Orders of the day, item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 31-13(3): Student Forum On Education

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, good communication is essential in building an educational system that meets the needs of students. I am pleased to tell this Assembly that I recently heard from student leaders from almost every school board and college campus in the Northwest Territories. These representatives were in Yellowknife to attend a student forum on education in early April.

The forum was an opportunity for the staff of my department to bring the student leaders up to date on recent initiatives in education and to hear their concerns about policies and programs. I attended the forum, along with senior officials from Education, Culture and Employment.

The students discussed issues such as constitutional development; career opportunities; making the transition from school to work; technology; and Education, Culture and Employment's strategic plan to 2010.

I was very impressed by how quickly the student entered into discussions and by the fact that they not only raised issues, they proposed solutions.

The students have presented their recommendations to me, which deal largely with educational standards and how we can make better use of applied technology. I will be replying to these recommendations this month and I will share my response with the Members of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the student representatives who attended the forum in Yellowknife may well be tomorrow's territorial leaders. The forum gives the participants an opportunity to consult on issues of importance. I look forward to addressing the issues they have raised as we work together to improve the school system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 32-13(3): Federal Community-Based Wellness Funding

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to provide Members with an update on federal community-based wellness funding for 1996-97.

The changes I am announcing today will result in more effective use of this federal funding, and the beneficiaries will be the people of the Northwest Territories. Health Canada provides funding for community wellness projects through a number of initiatives.

Although communities need this funding, the variety of different programs, delivery agents and reporting mechanisms have been confusing for people to understand and cumbersome to administer.

Two of the biggest initiatives are brighter futures and building healthy communities. These programs both provide funding for community-based wellness projects for First Nation and Inuit people.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today that Health Canada has agreed to consolidate brighter futures and building healthy communities and has transferred administration of this consolidated funding to the Department of Health and Social Services.

For communities, this will mean fewer reporting and administrative requirements. In the past, there were two sets of criteria and a requirement for two sets of proposals and two sets of reports. Now only one will

be necessary. Mr. Speaker, this initiative will provide over \$5.3 million for the people of the Northwest Territories to carry out wellness projects in their own communities this year and the consolidation ensures that more of the funds will be used for direct benefits.

Health Canada has agreed to a three-year agreement. The full amount of the funds will be available to communities. They must choose to coordinate the work they do regionally or locally, but the GNWT will not absorb any of the funds transferred from Health Canada under this agreement.

This funding is an important resource for communities as they develop their own wellness plans. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to my federal colleague, the Honourable David Dingwall, and to his staff, for their support and help in this process.

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The Department of Health and Social Services will continue to work to eliminate overlap and duplication and to encourage partnership and collaboration between the federal and territorial governments, aboriginal groups and organizations and our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Implementing Electronic Monitoring Program Into Correctional System

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Northwest Territories, we have one of the highest rates of imprisonment in the country. At any given time, we have about 300 inmates in our territorial corrections system for a total annual cost of over \$12 million.

More than any other jurisdiction, we need to find innovative ways to make our justice system more effective and more efficient. One solution other jurisdictions have found to be effective is electronic monitoring; using an ankle bracelet equipped with a transmitter, people can be sentenced to a form of house arrest. If the convicted person is not where

they are supposed to be at home or at work, the police or other appropriate authorities can be notified.

In British Columbia, electronic monitoring is used for about 17 per cent of the 2,000 inmates in the provincial correction system at any one time. Even with extensive monitoring and supervision, electronic monitoring costs BC less than half of what it would cost to keep an inmate in a provincial correctional facility.

Of course, the program is not used for inmates who are violent, uncooperative, dangerous or for sexual offenders. If we were to implement such a program for inmates who do not pose a danger to society, we could reduce the costs associated with corrections. Even if only 15 per cent of our inmates used the program and even if our costs to implement the program were 20 to 30 per cent higher than BC's, due to our higher telephone costs, we could still save over \$1 million every year.

Mr. Speaker, with the many cuts to government spending that are being introduced in this session, we have a duty to find and implement creative and innovative solutions wherever possible. I hope the Minister of Justice shares this view and I hope we can see electronic monitoring introduced as part of the Northwest Territories correctional system in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Constituents Worried About Future Of NWT

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy Friday. Mr. Speaker, in front of me, I have the Northwest Territories 1996-97 Budget Address, which was announced yesterday. I also have Building a Foundation for the Future: The Northwest Territories Agenda for Change, which was announced on Wednesday by the Premier, Donnie Morin.

Mr. Speaker, once again it is happy Friday. Almost everyone I talked to in my constituency seems to be worried about the future. People on welfare are worried about cutbacks. People in social housing are struggling with the rent increases and housing

shortages. Public servants are afraid of big cuts coming to their wages and benefits. Teachers and nurses are worried about cuts to all social programs. However, Mr. Speaker, listening to the honourable Premier and the Minister of Finance this week, I realize that everything is going to be okay.

--- Applause

Our Premier's address this week, titled: "Building a Foundation for the Future: The Northwest Territories Agenda for Change" is full of good words. He talked of a secure financial future. He talked of improving social conditions. He talked of improving economic conditions. He talked of empowering communities and about giving community leaders the tools they need. Our communities will become well. Our government will become more effective and efficient.

Nunavut will become a reality. We will take control of our future. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, our Minister of Finance was equally positive; even though some would say the budget is bad news, Mr. Todd talked to us mostly about opportunities. Mr. Speaker...

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. About creating new jobs, spending wiser and about a better life for all the people of the Northwest Territories. It sounds like everything is going to be okay, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wonder why my constituents are worried. According to Mr. Todd and Mr. Morin, everything is going to be okay. Or is it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On GNWT Employee Morale

MR. OOTES:

Good morning, Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak today about employee morale amongst the public service. In large organizations, employee morale is the subject of ongoing attention

and devotion by the senior managers. We know how hard it is to keep up

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employee morale in the best of times. We are certainly not in the best of times now. I am told that employee morale amongst the public service is very low.

We aren't going into any better times for the next few years. It may be difficult for us financially for a few years to overcome our financial deficit. It will be harder and harder for us to keep up employee morale amongst the public service. We have in excess of 4,000 public servants. They are an important element to the success of how well this government does or how poorly it performs.

They are a very valuable resource and they are the mechanism by which we drive our programs. Cabinet is the driver. They are the ones that steer the wheel, take the curves in the road and shift the gears. The public service is the engine and the tires, Sometimes they have to have fuel and the tires have to be inflated or deflated, depending upon the weather.

While I like many aspects of the budget and the Minister is to be commended and complimented for the many initiatives that have been made, I disagreed with certain aspects. I look forward to addressing that next week in a statement.

In the meantime, what concerns me is the subject of the morale in the public service and the importance of the public service was not addressed in the budget. Specifically, I am concerned that the government has no central Personnel department to address employee morale on an ongoing basis. It is an area I would like to ask questions in during question period. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Kivalliq Dogsled Race Results

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin my Member's statement today on Kivalliq dog mushing results, I would like to say happy birthday to my son, Randy, at home.

--- Applause

There was a Kivalliq dog mushing race in Rankin Inlet, April 25th to 26th. The mushers raced 35 miles a day for three days. There were participants from all over the Keewatin with one person from Yellowknife, Richard Beck. I am just going to tell you what the results were.

The first person to finish the race was Robert Tatti; second, Remi Nokkitok, Rankin Inlet; third, Eric Tatty, Rankin Inlet; fourth, Harry Towtongie, Rankin Inlet; fifth, Larry Ussak, Rankin Inlet; sixth, Jimmy Makpah, Arviat; seventh, Michael Ivu, Arviat; eighth, David Oolooyuk, Rankin Inlet; ninth, John Avaala, Baker Lake; tenth, Jack Kabvitok, Rankin Inlet. I would like to thank the volunteers who made this possible; it was a lot of work. On behalf of the Rankin Mushing Committee, they did a very good job of raising the money and the coordination of this was very much appreciated by the community and by the Keewatin. Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Division Of The Northwest Territories

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to make a few brief comments about the issue of division, which has taken up a considerable amount of time in the press and is of huge interest to this Assembly.

As a Member of the Western Territory, I just want to make it very, very clear that we're not just creating one territory, we're creating two. While the federal government has given us a certain amount of money - somewhat minuscule by most estimations -- the most critical part, to me, is how we divide up and how we negotiate the formula for the two territories for existing money to operate and maintain the two territories. I would be very interested in this issue. I know the people in my constituency are very interested in division and constitutional development; but, specifically, division. There is lots of apprehension. I would just encourage the Minister of Finance and the Premier to keep in mind that we should be negotiating these things right now, that we can't afford to wait and we have to be very careful that

we move forward together. I am very committed to this idea of division, but money is going to be a critical factor to all of us.

I just want to reassure the people in the riding that I represent that, having spoken to Minister Todd and the Premier, these issues are in the forefront of their minds, as well. Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Financial Aid Program For NWT Residents

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of the Northwest Territories have been asked to contribute to our financial predicament. Employees are going to receive less in their pay packages, some have paid the ultimate sacrifice by being laid off; 150 in this round. Other areas and individuals will be hurt within the NWT. With this in mind, I am proposing that all residents of the NWT receive a benefit at no cost to the government. This can be achieved by making available, upon request to all residents of the NWT, a card similar to the NWT health card which is issued to present employees for identification. The bearer of this card would be entitled to reduced rates; in other words, reduced rates at hotels and car rental agencies when travelling. At present, our government has standing orders with hotels and car rental agencies, so it should be relatively straightforward to advise these businesses to accept the cards at their establishments.

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car rentals because of increased volumes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Wrigley Band Guide Training Course

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from January 15th to February 2nd of this year, the Pehdzeh Ki Dene Band of Wrigley held a very successful guide training course on their traditional territory. Mr. Speaker, the reason this course was successful is because it was community driven from the very beginning. The community made the

selections and supported the people who were selected.

The NWT tourism training group, in conjunction with the instructor, Clayton Burke of Aurora College, provided the necessary support service to host this course. Mr. Speaker, during the on-the-land portion of the course which was held in the Mackenzie Mountains on Fish Lake, the temperature was about minus 38 degrees to minus 48 degrees Celsius. This did not freeze the enthusiasm of the students who took the course.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the following people for successfully completing the course: Stanley Sanguiez of Jean Marie River; Archie Williams of Wrigley; and, Leo Moses of Wrigley.

Mr. Speaker, the Pehdzeh Ki Dene Band's recommendation for the future is to hold more courses of this design; for example, a cross-cultural big game course.

In closing, I strongly support future recommendations since it is indigenous to the community. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Current Budget Developed On Fairness And Equity

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say hello to my wife and children back home...

--- Applause

... and to let other people know out there that when I do this, it is not to lower the standing of this House but to show the people that we care for people back home and we still think of them when we're here.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear! Hear!

--- Applause

MR. ROLAND:

Mr. Speaker, we've spoken of fairness, of doing things compassionately, working together, and I hope in this program we've worked on called "the budget," over

the last number of months, throughout this program we will be able to show the people of the Territories that it's done in a fair and equitable manner. Meaning not only to employees who are receiving reductions or being laid off, but also to communities throughout the NWT that this is fairly distributed amongst all communities, and that no certain communities will not be receiving worse than others.

I look forward to this government putting forward the plans in this fair and equitable manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to recognize a distinguished leader from the Nunavut region, our Member of Parliament for Nunatsiaq, Jack Anawak.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Alex Granovsky and Eddie Sandy, who are the coaches of the indoor soccer team, along with the

indoor soccer team from Keewatin and, of course, the future voters of Nunavut. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 139-13(3): Inquiry Into Death Of Child

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Last month, around Easter, there was a child who died during a dental visit. There was going to be an inquiry done on the death. I would like to get an update as to what's been happening with the inquiry. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 139-13(3): Inquiry Into Death Of Child

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with respect to this unfortunate incident, the child's body has been sent out for an autopsy. The results of that autopsy haven't come back yet. The regional dental officer for the Baffin Regional Board of Health has been undertaking a review of the case. As well, the Medical Advisory

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Committee of the Baffin Regional Health Board has done a cursory review of the case and is seeking some additional information on some of the medications that were used during the process. The Childhood Fatality Review Committee is also reviewing the case and is awaiting the autopsy findings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 140-13(3): Inventory Of Timber In NWT

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I have been going through their submission to the committee that they deal with with regard to the forest sector. While they give very detailed information on the licences that they are handing out and the potential for development, I noticed, with considerable concern, there are repeated references to the fact that while we are handing out large timber licences, we have very little idea of the amount of timber we have available, its age, its location and the types. They make reference to inventories being old and outdated, or they're without proper inventories and it would be very difficult to enter any kind of long-term arrangements. There is tremendous potential in this area of our economy, and I would just like to ask the Minister if he could indicate to the House the steps they are taking to try to obtain a comprehensive inventory of this very valuable resources which, while it is renewable, takes a very long time to grow, so we can ensure that we manage this resource properly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 140-13(3): Inventory Of Timber In NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Renewable Resources is planning to do a comprehensive inventory of timber in the Western Arctic. We have started in some areas; I believe, for instance, in the Hay River area we have completed the inventory. It takes two years minimum to do a proper inventory. In the case of the Fort Smith area, we hope to begin this summer, starting with aerial photos to identify the location, size and density of the timber resources. Hopefully, the inventory will be done over a two or three-year time period.

In the meantime," we are prepared to give support where there is community support to do so and where the consultation process provides support for the applicants to give approval for operators to do some minimal timber cutting while this inventory is being completed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 140-13(3): Inventory Of Timber In NWT

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I notice in this presentation that there are projects and potential projects stretching all the way from Fort Smith, Fort Liard, all the way up north to the Minister's riding. He indicates - which I think is very laudable and the potential, I know, is very great -- up to 800 direct jobs and 1,000 indirect jobs, so I think this is an area that bears much watching. I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, that while we can deal in the next couple of years specifically with individual requests, is there a plan in the department to ensure that we don't give away too much of the resource and find out after the fact that we were too generous in the timber permits that we've given out; not just south of the lake but throughout the Boreal Forest? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 140-13(3): Inventory Of Timber In NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department also shares the same concern, but the department also takes the view that to allow, for instance, a community to harvest a minimum of 10,000 cubic meters of timber a year is very conservative. The resource, as we see it, can sustain that very easily. As applications are made, there is a consultation process for communities to have input into the feasibility and the manageability of the requests within the application. First of all, we'll proceed as quickly as we can to do an overall inventory of timber in the Western Arctic; then we will also begin developing a management plan cooperatively with communities so that communities will have hands-on control of the resource that we will identify through the inventory. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr.

Miltenerberger.

Supplementary To Question 140-13(3): Inventory Of Timber In NWT

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Minister that subsistence use by communities or small projects by communities are probably very manageable and sustainable. My underlying concern here is the increasing northward pressure by large forest interests who, as we've seen, sort of vacuum up and mow down all the resources and leave stubble and are very huge consumers of this resource. It indicates in this report that in fact this pressure is already there. I'm concerned more with that kind of initiative and venturing into the North, that we have very clear checks and balances in place that -- while we don't discourage economic activity of this nature -- we in fact make sure that we keep in mind the need of the communities and the sustainable development nature of this resource. Could the Minister just briefly comment on that particular issue? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 140-13(3): Inventory Of Timber In NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Renewable Resources is always concerned about the profile and credibility that the government has, nationally and internationally, with regard to the way that we manage our resources, especially the renewable resource sector. Wildlife

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harvesting and protecting of the environment and, in this case, timber harvesting will also be of equal concern. So we want to be very sure that we take steps to assure the people of the North, the communities and people of southern Canada and the business community that we will have a plan that will be a sustainable, cooperative management plan with regard to how we harvest and make use of the timber that we have in the Northwest Territories. It is true that some of the timber stands that we have, particularly in the Liard, are known to be very mature timber, which requires cutting. It is also true that the dangers of forest fires, particularly in areas where there are very dry seasons, could potentially wipe out large stands of timber and diminish the economic value of them. But we also know that, in areas where there have been fires, we are encouraging harvesting of these burnt timbers, since their economic value only has a lifespan of two or three years after the burn

takes place. I want to assure the Member that we share the concern that he is suggesting and there will be no rape of the timber resources in the Northwest Territories for economic benefit and certainly not by timber companies from the South. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Just to remind Members, when you are asking questions, you have your preamble and then you can ask the question. Members continue to have long preambles, even after they have asked three of their supplementaries. Try to limit your preamble to your first question.

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 141-13(3): Procedure For Amalgamating Regional Personnel Offices Into FMBS

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Personnel. I understand the Personnel Secretariat is no longer responsible for hiring government staff. Individual departments will be doing their own hiring. What is left of Personnel will be absorbed into FMBS; the Financial Management Board Secretariat. How is this new policy being implemented in the regional offices?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Personnel, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 141-13(3): Procedure For Amalgamating Regional Personnel Offices Into FMBS

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the regional level, the hiring of personnel for the departments will be carried out by those departments that are responsible for hiring those people. They will carry out that responsibility. While the transition is going on, the Department of Personnel will be working with the departments to get them up to speed and provide them with the proper training, so that hiring can be done properly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 141-13(3): Procedure For Amalgamating Regional Personnel Offices Into FMBS

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to this issue, who will now be responsible for receiving job applications? Will there be one central agency to receive applications or will each individual department have that responsibility?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 141-13(3): Procedure For Amalgamating Regional Personnel Offices Into FMBS

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each department will have that responsibility. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 141-13(3): Procedure For Amalgamating Regional Personnel Offices Into FMBS

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister have plans to inform the public of these changes so potential applicants are aware of the new procedures?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 141-13(3): Procedure For Amalgamating Regional Personnel Offices Into FMBS

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the public is being informed already of the process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 142-13(3): Update On Snare Lake Freezer

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. It has been some time since our discussion regarding the Snare Lake freezer. Could he please give me an update on this very important issue? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 142-13(3): Update On Snare Lake Freezer

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Renewable Resources will be submitting a decision paper to Cabinet before the end of May regarding the programs for community freezers. We should have a response to the community before the end of this month.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 143-13(3): Enforcement Of GNWT Staffing Policies

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Personnel. Further to

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what we just heard, who now has the responsibility of enforcing staffing policies, including affirmative action?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for Personnel, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 143-13(3): Enforcement Of GNWT Staffing Policies

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The responsibility lies with the departments, but also the Department of Executive will still field any questions that come from the general public or those people who do have a

problem with how the hiring is carried out. We will also work with anyone who has concerns on how hiring is done or on appeals and try to put those issues to bed. The Department of Personnel, through the transition period, will continue to do that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 143-13(3): Enforcement Of GNWT Staffing Policies

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the GNWT have other staffing policies which require enforcement such as policies against nepotism?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 143-13(3): Enforcement Of GNWT Staffing Policies

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You mean hiring their friends and relatives? It isn't allowed in the Government of the Northwest Territories. If anyone is aware of this happening, then they should raise it. We will continue to have the responsibility of conducting audits of the department. At the beginning, audits will have to be done more frequently until the departments are up and running. Slowly, that will be phased out to a yearly audit. If there are any complaints, the secretariat will also be available to investigate the specific staffing complaints when necessary. Hopefully, that will take care of that issue. It is very clear that you do not give people jobs just because they are your friends and relatives. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 143-13(3): Enforcement Of GNWT Staffing Policies

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What measures will be taken against department managers who violate the

affirmative action policy, engage in nepotism or violate any other GNWT staffing policies?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 143-13(3): Enforcement Of GNWT Staffing Policies

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the reasons that we have done away with the Department of

Personnel and given our managers the responsibility and accountability to hire people within their own departments is so that we can increase and meet our government policies better. We can hold people accountable. If managers are breaking government policies, they will not be managers too long in this government because their job is to follow government policy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 143-13(3): Enforcement Of GNWT Staffing Policies

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister assure this House that the affirmative action policy will continue to be enforced and that nepotism and other inappropriate practices will be prohibited with the new staffing arrangements in the GNWT?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 143-13(3): Enforcement Of GNWT Staffing Policies

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I can affirm with this House is those responsible for hiring will not only be responsible but they will be held accountable. They will follow government policies that exist today and they will implement those policies when they hire people to do any jobs in this government. Finally, we do have a process where we can not only hold managers responsible, but we will hold Ministers responsible as well. Ministers are responsible for their

departments, the same as the managers are. We assess how they carry out the responsibility and policies of this government and we will hold them accountable. We have to give them the flexibility to manage and they have to do it properly within the policies of this government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke earlier that my understanding is the level of morale amongst public servants is low in this government and there is a need for us to address this. It is an important resource that we have and one that if morale continues to be low, our policies and programs are going to suffer as a result. They are a big and important element of implementing the programs and directions that this government sets. I wonder if the Premier, as Minister of Personnel, could tell us what his understanding is of the level of employee morale within the GNWT.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ootes, that is a hypothetical question. The Minister wouldn't know the level of morale. Would you like to rephrase your question?

Question 144-13(3): Program To Measure GNWT Employee Morale

MR. OOTES:

I will rephrase my point in question. Does the government have a program to look at what level the

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employee morale is at? Will they address the mechanism employees have to address employee morale?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Personnel, Mr. Morin. That was two questions.

Return To Question 144-13(3): Program To Measure GNWT Employee Morale

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever you have a change, no matter how slight or how large the change

is, it does affect how your employees react. We are going through some major changes as a government today and we will continue to go through them. Hopefully, some of the knowledge that wasn't in the hands of the employees in the past is in their hands today, after we tabled the budget yesterday. This should ensure that employees know what direction this government is going. Our morale among our employees is no different than clear across this country right now. All governments are going through change. All governments are downsizing. That does create a morale problem.

Myself, as the Premier, have set up meetings with the deputy ministers already to speak to them about the direction this government is going and also to encourage them. I am fully aware that we, as politicians, make the directions and then we need our employees to carry that out. I, for one, have great faith in our employees. I, for one, completely depend on our employees to carry out the direction that we set as a government and as Members of this Assembly. I fully understand that we will not get the job done without our employees' assistance. I appreciate the hard work they put in and I appreciate the 16-hour days that our senior managers put in seven days a week to try to carry out our direction. I let them know that. What more I can do as Premier, I do not know. For those who are left in this government, we appreciate their services and we will work closely with all the people in the Northwest Territories to carry on, even in this time of restraint and cutbacks.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

The fact that we don't have a central Personnel department is of concern because there is no central source in which employees can feed back or managers can feed down. I wonder if the Premier would consider initiating a direction whereby the Minister and deputy ministers can address the concern I have raised.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Could I please have the Member repeat the question? He didn't have my full attention on that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 144-13(3): Program To Measure GNWT Employee Morale

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we don't have a central Personnel department, it raises a concern to me that employees don't have one agency in which to feed their concerns to the upper levels and similarly the management

levels do not have an easy mechanism by which to feed information and concerns down to the employees. Concerning that, could the Premier consider initiating a direction to have the Ministers and deputy ministers address the concern that I have raised?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 144-13(3): Program To Measure GNWT Employee Morale

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I acknowledge the concern the Member raised and we will try our best to address that concern. We meet from time to time with our deputy ministers. I will make sure that the deputy ministers understand that concern. We do have what we call an employee assistance program, where employees can tap into counselling or whatever they need to adapt to the changing ways the government is doing business today. I understand also that they have in all levels of government, except for management, union representatives who work with employees and bring their concerns up to management. So those communication lines could be opened a bit more, so we do address that concern. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 144-13(3): Program To Measure GNWT Employee Morale

MR. OOTES:

I still see a concern where there is no central body to handle the feedback. I am wondering if the Premier would consider initiating a direction. I guess I am repeating my question. I wonder if he would consider initiating a direction and perhaps creating a report to address what I consider the existence of employee morale problems amongst the public service. If a report is produced, could that be given back to this House?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 144-13(3): Program To Measure GNWT Employee Morale

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have taken the move, as a government, and given to the departments the ability to hire, fire and deal with their employees. No, I am not going to look at recreating a central organization for employees to solve their morale problems, if that is what the Member is asking for. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 145-13(3): Involvement Of Public In Cutbacks At Stanton Regional Hospital

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Kelvin Ng with regard to the cutbacks that are presently under way at Stanton Regional Hospital. As you know, the Stanton Hospital doesn't only serve Yellowknife, it is a territorial hospital that serves a lot of the outlying communities. My concern is in relation to the areas where there are individuals who are suffering from mental illness or in the long-term care unit who can't speak for

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themselves because of the state they may be in. The areas hardest hit in cutbacks at the hospital seem to be in the area of care. We have to seriously look at that area because it does affect the outlying communities where we do have problems with suicides, at cetera, and the day-to-day stress that comes with living in these communities. We have to find a mechanism that allows the individual

communities or regional hospital authorities to have input into that decision. It can't be done at the senior level only.

Also, as Members of this House, we have an obligation to those people who can't speak for themselves. Will the Minister allow the House and people in the outlying regions to be involved in any cutbacks that happen at that hospital, especially in the areas of mental health, the physio department and also the long-term care ward?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 145-13(3): Involvement Of Public In Cutbacks At Stanton Regional Hospital

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Stanton board of health has representation from throughout their service area, including a member from the Member's area. I am not sure who that member is. So when these proposals were put forward through the department for their review, we assumed that they had input from the board representation in endorsing the reduction plans that came forward. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you.

Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 145-13(3): Involvement Of Public In Cutbacks At Stanton General Hospital

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to having input, I do not believe that, as a Member of this House, I have seen my role as having input into the process. I would like the Minister to now state if he will bring any final decision before it's made, back to this House so we can have input into that decision.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 145-13(3): Involvement Of Public In Cutbacks At Stanton General Hospital

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Assembly have an opportunity during the review of the departmental main estimates to provide input, to criticize or to support any initiatives that the department has approved for boards during their reduction options or within the department themselves. I believe that would be the opportune time for the Member to raise any issues that he may have. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 145-13(3): Involvement Of Public In Cutbacks At Stanton General Hospital

MR. KRUTKO:

Will the Minister bring anything that does come out in the way of a final decision back to this House?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 145-13(3): Involvement Of Public In Cutbacks At Stanton General Hospital

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, Mr. Speaker, because the Stanton board of directors of the hospital have brought forward reduction options which fall in line with some of the guidelines that the department has given them to look at; reduction options to meet the targets that we have given them. We feel that the level of service that is being provided is still adequate within those options, and they will be undertaken. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 146-13(3): Feasibility Of Financial Aid Plan For NWT Residents

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Member's statement this morning, my question is to the honourable Minister responsible for FMBS, Mr. Todd. Will the Minister have his officials look into and report back to this House on the pros and cons of making available to all residents of the NWT, upon request,

documentation which would entitle them to already-negotiated savings with hotel and car rental agencies, both in the North and the South?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 146-13(3): Feasibility Of Financial Aid Plan For NWT Residents

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be discussing this matter with my department. If it is at all feasible, we will take a look at this suggestion by my honourable colleague in an effort to aid northerners across the wide expanse of the NWT, and report back to the House at a later date. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 147-13(3): Guidelines For Use Of Social Assistance

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, with the evershrinking social dollar, it is becoming more and more important that it be spent for the purpose it was meant and that the program not be abused. I was wondering if the Department of Social Services has a policy of guidelines in place that suggest to clients what they may purchase with the funding they receive.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

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HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the program for social assistance falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment through their income reform initiatives, so I will pass on that question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 147-13(3): Guidelines For Use Of Social Assistance

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department doesn't have a policy in place outlining what people should purchase, but does offer programs providing guidance to people to assist them in understanding, for instance, how to purchase a nutritionally balanced food basket with the funds that are available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 147-13(3): Guidelines For Use Of Social Assistance

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the department has the policy and guidelines in writing that they hand to the people who receive the social assistance, that they can then follow.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I suspect that such guidance would be available in writing but, in order to ensure, I will have to check with the department so I will take that question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 148-13(3): Inquiry Into Electronic Monitoring Program For NWT Offenders

MR. ERASMUS:

I would like to ask the Minister of Justice, further to my statement concerning electronic monitoring ... Considering the fact that our correctional centres are very overcrowded, we have people, for instance in the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, stacked up like cord wood. People serving weekend sentences, intermittent jail sentences, are extremely expensive for overtime and what not on the weekends. Since the

former Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne, had asked on March 28, 1995, of the former Minister of Justice whether he would look into electronic monitoring, and the Minister indicated, 'We need to look at all the ideas and innovative approaches taken by other jurisdictions...' and "...We also have the need to find more cost-effective ways of incarcerating and providing relevant programs so we will be looking at these other measures and approaches taken by the governments in countries across the world...' I would like to know if the Minister had actually looked into this and what were the results of the inquiry.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 148-13(3): Inquiry Into Electronic Monitoring Program For NWT Offenders

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we have looked into it. At this time, we don't think that it's practical for the Northwest Territories, given the expense of purchasing the equipment, the additional staff that would be required for monitoring the system and for the staff who would be required for installation and retrieval of the bracelet and equipment that we would be using. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 148-13(3): Inquiry Into Electronic Monitoring Program For NWT Offenders

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know when this research was done; how up to date it is.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 148-13(3): Inquiry Into Electronic Monitoring Program For NWT Offenders

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that information about when it was actually undertaken. I know it must have been fairly recently,

but I will get that information and advise the Member.
Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 149-13(3): Administration Of Staff Appeals

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Personnel. Now that he's looking like he's had a bit of a snack to tide him over to lunch, while the rest of us look at him hungrily...

AN HON. MEMBER:

Shame.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

It is a shame that he went to eat for...(inaudible)...

--- Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Personnel if he could indicate to the House how issues like the appeal process will be coordinated, which tends to be a semi-legal process with lots of pitfalls, room for wrangling and arbitration and all these kinds of issues. Could the Minister indicate to this House what we have in place now that Personnel will no longer be doing that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Personnel, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 149-13(3): Administration Of Staff Appeals

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did step out of the House for a moment because nature called, not because I went to eat, Mr. Miltenberger. The appeal process

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has been done and the staffing appeals will continue to be administered by FMBS. They have already done that and they will continue to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 149-13(3):
Administration Of Staff Appeals

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another issue of coordination is the whole area of the hiring of casuals; in particular, at this particular point in time, the whole issue of student hire. Could the Minister indicate what's in place so we don't have duplication there, we don't have people running from department to department, that we can coordinate this? How will things like criminal record checks be coordinated? How will we ensure that there is compliance and that casual hire is done in a way that is in line with government policy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 149-13(3):
Administration Of Staff Appeals

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The departments will assume the full responsibility for casual employment. Applicants for casual work will apply directly to the individual departments for employment. Summer students will also apply directly to the departments for summer employment opportunities. The secretariat, within my responsibility, will play a coordinating role for student and casual employment by referring candidates to the departments and by meeting with individuals to discuss employment opportunities and how they would like to be employed by this government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 149-13(3):
Administration Of Staff Appeals

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yet another issue of concern in terms of coordination is the whole area of advertising, which is a very expensive part of the hiring process, with bringing people in for interviews. Could the Minister indicate how that will be handled to avoid loss of economies of scale now that they're

going to be going out through individual departments, that necessary training will be provided so people will know how to do this; how to contact appropriate jurisdictions, newspapers and such to place advertisements? Could the Minister indicate how that particular function will be addressed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 149-13(3):
Administration Of Staff Appeals

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Publicity and advertisement of all employment opportunities will be required ... the requirement of revised guidelines which will contain minimum requirements for newspaper and poster advertisement. Also, Inkit will continue to be the designated placement agency for all GNWT newspaper advertisements. Competition posters will continue to be utilized and sent to municipal, community and band offices throughout the NWT, as well as other public display areas. That would be the coordinated effort of that issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 149-13(3):
Administration Of Staff Appeals

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate, as we now sit in the House, have the appropriate signing authorities and delegations of authority been given to the various managers in the regions and the communities to carry out these functions; as the Minister indicated, for things like the hiring, firing and signing of job offers and staff requisitions and such? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to take that question as notice to make sure I answer it properly.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 150-13(3): Responsibility For Education Tax Increase

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On May 1st, I asked the Minister of Finance a question on education taxes. He gave me a response that he believed that he was responsible for the increase in the upcoming education tax. Can he inform me is he indeed the one who initiated this, or was it initiated at a previous time? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 150-13(3): Responsibility For Education Tax Increase

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't my intention to evade the issue yesterday when my honourable colleague asked me it. I was responsible for the increase in the recent education mill rate tax increase. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 150-13(3):
Responsibility For Education Tax Increase

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us as to the revenue that will be generated by this increase? He mentioned in his answer that it was approximately \$575,000, I believe. Looking at the main estimates, my math says it's much less than that. Can he inform me as to the correct number?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

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Further Return To Question 150-13(3): Responsibility For Education Tax Increase

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a nice day today. It's an excellent question asked by my honourable colleague. I'll just take a moment here to check my notes, but I believe it's somewhere in the region of \$575,000, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 150-13(3):
Responsibility For Education Tax Increase

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since it was an initiative of this government, the 13th Assembly -- from what I'm understanding, if the Minister is saying that he's responsible -- why were we not informed at least before the media was? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know. I'll have to take the question as notice and report back to my colleague later on next week. Just for the record, it does indicate that we would raise an estimate of \$575,000 with this tax.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 151-13(3): Reason For Amalgamating
ED&T, EM&PR And Renewable Resources

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism; Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources; and, Renewable Resources. The government is proposing the amalgamation of these three departments, and the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development has been reviewing this objective. It's a big initiative and it has impact on both the employees in the department as well as on the general public. Concern has been expressed about this concept; the concept of combining the three departments. Some of the comments that I've heard are that one department is there to cut the trees and

the other department is there to save the trees; one department is there to catch fish and the other is there to analyze and promote the environment and save the fish. I received a letter from Enviro Watch on this matter, which I tabled a month or two ago. I would like to ask the Minister if he could explain why this initiative is being taken to combine the departments.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 151-13(3): Reason For
Amalgamating ED&T, EM&PR And Renewable
Resources

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier and this government have stated on a number of occasions, and it has been recommended as well by committee in January, I believe, that we should proceed with plans to amalgamate the three departments: Renewable Resources, Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. It's my plan to put together a comprehensive plan on consolidation, amalgamation of these departments, to have it reviewed by Cabinet to present to the appropriate standing committee for their input to ensure that all concerns are heard and addressed. As well, there will be some consultation carried on by myself, personally, with groups that we believe have a stake in this initiative. For instance, we have tried, on a number of occasions, to contact Enviro Watch.

Unfortunately, we've been unable to set up a meeting with this group yet. We've also contacted other groups, and we're developing a plan to have consultation with aboriginal land claims organizations, for instance, different business groups, as well as other stakeholders who may have concerns about this proposed amalgamation so we take and hear their concerns up front rather than late in the process. It's my plan to go out and seek as much input as I can, but still proceed with the plans to amalgamate, to consolidate a plan within the next few months. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 151-13(3): Reason For
Amalgamating ED&T, EM&PR And Renewable
Resources

MR. OOTES:

From what I understand the Minister is saying, he will personally be consulting with the various groups and interested parties. Could he advise us of what time frame he envisions this will take?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 151-13(3): Reason For Amalgamating ED&T, EM&PR And Renewable Resources

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, as soon as there is a definitive plan on the steps we're going to take to follow through with amalgamation and I have the approval of Cabinet to do so, I will be prepared to share the plan, the timetable and the different phases we're going to be following in carrying out this initiative. I will be prepared to share that with Members. It has to be shared with the appropriate standing committee and with Cabinet. Once that is done, there should be no difficulty in looking at tabling the plan. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 151-13(3): Reason For Amalgamating ED&T, EM&PR And Renewable Resources

MR. OOTES:

I wonder if the Minister could advise us if he will record or make a report on what each of the groups' responses will be to his meetings with him, and if we may get a copy of those reports.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 151-13(3): Reason For Amalgamating ED&T, EM&PR And Renewable Resources

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, some of the discussions will be more of an informal, private, confidential

nature. Those that are public, those that are conveyed by letter, for instance, where there are submissions made, we will be happy to share those with Members so everyone is aware of the positions and views put forward by the different groups that are interested and concerned about this initiative. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 151-13(3): Reason For Amalgamating ED&T, EM&PR And Renewable Resources

MR. OOTES:

I would just like to go back to the time frame question. I'm wondering if the Minister could be more definitive about the length of time that this might take.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 151-13(3): Reason For Amalgamating ED&T, EM&PR And Renewable Resources

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I don't have the draft consolidation plan here in front of me; but I do know that in the main estimates that are before us, the budgets are for three separate departments. That's what we will be asking Members to approve in the next few weeks. At this time and for the foreseeable future, there will be three departments operating separately as they do now.

The plan we are developing which we will share with you, perhaps before the session is over, will outline how we plan to move with the amalgamation. The next budget cycle, which starts probably in June, will see us developing the first budget for the proposed new department which will come into effect April 1st next year or whenever it is the budget is approved; perhaps it might initially be through an interim appropriation. The first phase of the work is to develop a consultation plan, it's to draft out the vision, the purpose, the goals and objectives of a new department, and we'll deal with the organization and the structure of such a department. That will be the initial work we will start to carry out. It's my hope that we will do it in as methodical and organized a way as possible so that it's up front, it's clear to everyone

involved, what it is we're trying to do and the way in which we're going to try to carry it out.

As I say, as soon as the draft plans are approved by Cabinet and by the standing committee, I'm sure we will be able to share that with the Members of the Legislature; perhaps through tabling it, and certainly with the public. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 152-13(3): Information Provided To Retailers On Social Assistance Provisions

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I would like to know if the retail stores and grocery stores in the communities are made aware of the government's policy as to what can be purchased with social assistance funding.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that they are but, in order to ensure that I have all the facts, I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 153-13(3): Use Of Resources For Departmental Staffing

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Personnel. Now that the staffing function has been removed from the Personnel Secretariat, I would like to ask the Minister how the government departments will be hiring new employees. Will they be using existing resources to manage their staffing needs, or have we been cutting the Department of Personnel only to have new positions popping up elsewhere in the departments? For instance, one of the envelopes seems to have

created a new position for handling the personnel functions within their envelope. I would like to know if the departments are supposed to be using existing resources to manage their staffing needs.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Personnel, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 153-13(3): Use Of Resources For Departmental Staffing

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The departments are to use existing resources within the departments that they had there already, to handle the staffing and the personnel function within their departments. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question period is over now. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, replies to Budget Address. Item 11, petitions. The next item would be item 12, but, before that, we'll take a 15-minute break.

--- SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. We're on item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Erasmus.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 1-13(3): Standing Committee On Government Operations Report On The Review Of The 1996-97 Main Estimates

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present the report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations on its review of the 1996-97 main estimates and departmental business plans. I would like to begin with an overview of the process.

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Since being elected in mid-October of 1995, Members of the Legislative Assembly have been developing a new and more effective way of conducting business. An important part of this new approach is the new

standing committee structure and the relationships which have developed between those committees and the Ministers and departments. The committee structure allows Members to approach a department holistically, rather than looking only at finances or legislation. Although there is always a need to refine a new system to make it better, committee Members are pleased with how the committee system supports a true consensus approach to government. The efforts of Ministers to facilitate the sharing of information and ideas is appreciated, and Members hope the cooperative relationships developed during the business plan/main estimates review will continue.

Given the difficult financial problems facing the government, the first order of business was to review departmental three-year business plans. From January 19th to the 29th, the standing committees on Social Programs, Infrastructure, Government Operations and Resource Management and Development met to review these initial plans. Over a 10 day period, committee Members analyzed the documents that were provided, held briefings with Ministers and provided the government with recommendations on how these plans could be improved.

During the first three weeks, the government revised the plans and incorporated the recommendations from the standing committees. On February 22nd, the business plans were resubmitted for committee review. From February 23rd to 28th, standing committee Members met, once again, with Ministers and departmental officials to revisit the draft plans. On February 29th, the chairmen from each committee delivered reports to the Standing Committee on Government Operations. These reports outlined additional recommendations as well as areas where each committee felt additional information was required.

During the second week in April, the government submitted final copies of the departmental multi-year business plans and the 1996-97 main estimates to the committees. Standing committees reviewed these final versions from April 17th to 25th, and developed final reports.

Normally, the budget process would begin in the fall and be finalized during the spring months. However, with a fall election, Members and government departments were forced to review both multi-year plans and budgets far later than usual, resulting in the need for an interim appropriation for the first few months of this fiscal year. This constraining factor did

not allow Members to review, in detail, all of the programs and issues of concern within each department. Members look forward to the fall of 1996, when the review of the 1997-98 budget begins. Members expect a more detailed review of both multi-year plans and departmental budgets at that time.

The standing committees, along with the Cabinet, have had to focus all of their energies over the past four months on dealing with the dire financial situation we are in. The committees now look forward to moving beyond dealing with the crisis and into planning for the future.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear! Hear!

MR. ERASMUS:

The Assembly has released a statement of its priorities. The work of the standing committees will now focus on how we achieve those objectives together.

General Comments

Many of the departments proposed very ambitious reduction strategies in their business plans. These strategies often have short time frames and the actions in one program area have implications for other programs. Departments will have to work hard to meet all of the deadlines proposed as part of the deficit management activities. Given the size of the deficit, the government cannot afford slippage from the budgets proposed by departments. All standing committees intend to review the government's quarterly variance reports to ensure that the targets are being met.

In order to provide thoughtful comment and questioning on a business plan or budget, Members need time to read and review the material provided. The committees recognize the extraordinary circumstances for the budget and business plan review this year contributed to documents often being provided at the last minute. However, in future reviews, the standing committees will expect material to be provided in advance of meetings to allow Members sufficient reading time.

The standing committees also look forward to a standard presentation of information in next year's business plans and budgets. The differences in how departments provided material and in the types of material provided made it difficult for the committees

to do their work. These differences also meant there were many requests for information to ensure the committees had consistent background in making decisions.

Although standing committees were reviewing the budgets of the government, they were also very concerned about the implications of division for this government. In future business plans and budgets, the departments will be expected to comment on preparations for division.

A concern which arose in more than one committee was with the systems in place to assist departments and regions in carrying out the personnel/staffing function with the dismantling of the Personnel department. In all cases where the government is privatizing, decentralizing, contracting or changing the way a service is delivered, standing committees will be watching for two key elements in these plans: Will the new method of service delivery cost the same or less? Are the functions covered; is someone actually providing the service that used to be provided?

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scholarships set consistent eligibility criteria -- possibly a five year residency -- and establish requirements for scholarship recipients to return to the North once they have finished.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes the general comments of the Standing Committee on Government Operations. Details on the departments and operations reviewed by the committee will be given during the review of the main estimates in Committee of the Whole.

Motion To Receive Committee Report 1-13(3) And Move To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Mr. Speaker, as this concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations on the review of the 1996-97 main estimates be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Your motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

--- Carried

Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4) and have Committee Report 1-13(3) of the Standing Committee on Government Operations moved into Committee of the Whole today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4). Are there any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent. Committee Report 1-13(3) will be put into Committee of the Whole for today. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Henry.

Committee Report 2-13(3): Standing Committee On Infrastructure Report On The Review Of The 1996-97 Main Estimates

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Members of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, I am pleased to provide our report on the review of the 1996-97 main estimates and departmental business plans.

Introduction

A recurring theme throughout the business plans of the departments in this envelope was one of devolution. Where the Government of the Northwest Territories used to be the most important provider of public services in the NWT, the trend now is towards the government being the coordinator of the delivery of those services. Transferring powers and programs to communities, privatizing services formerly provided by government, and developing user-pay systems for services still provided by government are all part of a new direction for the government.

Committee Members appreciated that they have had a degree of input into the development of the main estimates. Through the business plan review process, recommendations by the ordinary Members who sit on the standing committees have been incorporated

into the business plans and budgets of all government departments. Given the critical impact of the measures taken in this budget, however, committee Members would like to see the process expanded to allow for public input during the review. Cuts had to be made; however, all Members would appreciate hearing now from our constituents where they would suggest further savings and reductions should occur.

The presentation of business plans and budget documents concerned committee Members. Documents were often delivered very late to Members, sometimes only as meetings with the relevant department were beginning. Documents were also subject to frequent changes, leading to some confusion. Members appreciate that the process was rushed due to the timing of the 1995 election, and that the novelty of this process was a factor in the ability of staff to produce timely documents. However, for the fall review of the 1997-98 business plans and budget, Members would like to see the following improvements:

- documents to be provided to Members well in advance of meetings, preferably a week or more;
- more consistent format among departmental business plans;
- when documents are updated, supplying only changed pages to replace, rather than wasting large amounts of paper on printing completely new versions;
- highlighting changes between updates; for example, red lining or shading.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes the general comments of the standing committee. During the review of the main estimates in Committee of the Whole, the committee will be making a detailed report on each department in the infrastructure envelope.

Motion To Receive Committee Report 2-13(3) And Move To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

That concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure. Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the report of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure on the review of the 1996-97 main estimates, be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Your 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.

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Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4) and have Committee Report 2-13(3) of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Yellowknife South is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4). Do we have any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Henry. You have unanimous consent. Committee Report 2-13(3) will be put into Committee of the Whole for today. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Krutko.

Committee Report 3-13(3): Standing Committee On Resource Management And Development Report On The Review Of The 1996-97 Main Estimates

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to present the report of the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development on its review of the 1996-97 main estimates and departmental business plans. I would like to begin with an overview of the process.

Since being elected in mid-October of 1995, Members of the Legislative Assembly have been developing a new and more effective way of conducting business. This new process started with revising the standing committee system that allows Members to review department business plans and budgets. The

Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development was charged with the following mandate: review legislation and policy proposals, multi-year business plans and budgets, bills, boards and agencies, public accounts and division issues; review departmental performance; and, considering any other matters referred by the House for the departments of Economic Development and Tourism; Renewable Resources; Transportation; Safety and Public Services; and, Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Given the difficult financial problems facing the government, the first order of business was to review departmental three year business plans. As a result of the initial review in January 1996, and subsequent reviews in February and April 1996, a number of cost-saving measures were recommended by the standing committee and incorporated into the 1996-97 main estimates. The committee also approved a number of reductions proposed by the departments. This approach facilitated total reductions to this envelope's budget of more than \$17 million and 51 person years.

Normally, the budget process would begin in the fall and be finalized during the spring months. Given the fall election, however, Members and government departments were forced to review both multi-year plans and budgets at the same time. This constraining factor did not allow Members to review, in detail, every element within each department.

Members do, however, look forward to the fall of 1996 when the review of the 1997-98 budget begins. Members hope, at that time, a more detailed review of departmental budgets can be accomplished. A true consensus government system demands that all partners are involved in the decision-making process. As a result, a recurring theme of committee involvement is evident throughout this report. Members of the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development are encouraged by the initial steps taken by the government, and hope this trend continues in the future.

Motion To Receive Committee Report 3-13(3) And Move To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development. Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the report of the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development of the review of the

1996-97 main estimates be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

--- Carried

Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4) and have Committee Report 3-13(3) of the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development moved into Committee of the Whole for today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4). Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Krutko, you have unanimous consent. Committee Report 3-13(3) will be put into Committee of the Whole for today. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Enuaraq.

Committee Report 4-13(3): Standing Committee On Social Programs Report On The Review Of The 1996-97 Main Estimates

MR. ENUARAQ:

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to provide the general comments from the Standing Committee on Social Programs on the review of the 1996-97 main estimates.

The Standing Committee on Social Programs' work is intended to support a complement of efforts of Ministers. The approach taken by the social envelope Ministers was consistent with the consensus-style government we have and the efforts of Caucus Members to work together to address the difficult financial situation we are in. Although the process of

reviewing business plans is new, standing committee Members feel the meetings were very productive. The business plan review process has been very successful, with most departments, as an avenue to exchange ideas and identify areas where the Assembly needs to focus extra attention and resources. The process provides a forum

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where the departmental expertise and the Members' background and community knowledge can be mutually respected and shared.

Across the government, all departments and committees are trying to find ways to deal with the difficult financial situation. The social program departments account for almost 60 per cent of the government's budgets, with the largest expenditures being in the areas of Education and Health and Social Services. While the standing committee Members are committed to dealing with the deficit as quickly as possible, they recognize the drastic impact on NWT residents which would result if all of the cuts to the social programs were to take place in a single year.

Therefore, the standing committee supports spreading the social program reductions over a two-year period. This provides time for changes to social programs to take place in a planned way, with the help of new approaches and transitional programming.

As a Caucus, Members of the Legislative Assembly set priorities to guide their work. Among these priorities were community wellness and empowerment of the communities. During discussions of each department's business plans, the standing committee looked for reductions and program innovations that are consistent with these priorities.

The standing committee wants the government to take swift and clear action to implement a community wellness strategy, consolidate community resources and empower communities to make decisions and develop programs which will have a positive impact on community residents.

The initial plans the government provided for developing the community wellness framework are very encouraging. The standing committee believes that this is the key to dealing with the range of social programs impacting northerners. The standing committee looks forward to the plans being provided

on June 1, 1996 and intends to play an active role in ensuring that the framework becomes a reality.

In the community wellness strategy and as part of many of the initiatives the departments proposed, the standing committee expects there will be pilot projects required in different program areas such as income reform, community wellness centres and community justice. While Members recognize that different communities are at differing stages of readiness to take on programs, the social envelope should ensure that there is a fair and equitable sharing of pilot project opportunities between all communities.

In most regions, there are a number of boards and departments delivering services in the social program area. Many of these boards and departments have their own administrative staff, performing similar tasks. There is a strong potential to reduce resources or free up valuable funding for front-line programs and staff. This would require boards and departments to work cooperatively in identifying potential for economies of scale by combining resources. The standing committee hopes to see this area addressed as departments and regions identify new ways of doing business.

The largest board structures supported by the government are in health and education. The standing committee thinks that the board members are best placed to determine the needs of the communities in the region. The boards are also the most appropriate level to determine program modifications or changes which will meet these needs while addressing financial realities. The standing committee has encouraged the departments to provide general direction that allows boards and other regional management to determine what will work for the region or community.

It is the standing committee's opinion that gone is the day when this government can afford to wait for communities to come forward and ask to participate in the delivery of a service or program. The government must aggressively pursue opportunities to empower communities and have control of program delivery at the community level. At the same time, we must make sure communities are ready and able to assume these responsibilities. A number of the new initiatives in the social envelope are directed at supporting communities to take over more programs. The government must work with communities to prepare them to ensure community-driven programs are successfully implemented.

Administrative And Other Issues

The standing committee recognizes that the 1996-97 business plans process took place under severe time constraints -- am I saying that correctly -- these timing problems were the result of the date of the territorial election in relation to the government's fiscal year. The standing committee knows departments worked long hours to provide the business plans and appreciates the efforts of the many staff involved. However, in the future when the process returns to a normal budget cycle, the standing committee would like to have documents provided farther in advance. Receiving material just prior to meetings does not allow Members to adequately review the work prepared by departments.

The standing committee has noted that some of the social programs departments, such as Health and Social Services, offer scholarships. These scholarships encourage northerners to pursue post-secondary schooling. The standing committee would like to see some consistency in the eligibility criteria for these scholarships. For example, government-funded scholarships should be aimed at

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northerners; possibly with a minimum five-year residency. One of the conditions of the scholarship should be a return to the North to work applying the knowledge. If the person did not return, the scholarship should be considered a loan and fully repayable.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the general comments from the Standing Committee on Social Programs. The standing committee will have more detailed comments on each department in the social envelope during the review of the main estimates in Committee of the Whole.

Motion To Receive And Move Committee Report 4-13(3) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Social Programs. Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that the report of the Standing Committee on Social Programs on the Review of the 1996-97 Main Estimates, be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

--- Carried

Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4) and have Committee Report 4-13(3) of the Standing Committee on Social Programs moved into Committee of the Whole for today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Baffin Central is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4). Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Enuaraq, you have unanimous consent. Committee Report 4-13(3) will be put into Committee of the Whole for today.

Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Arlooktoo, your point of privilege.

Point Of Privilege

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express both my unhappiness and disappointment regarding an article which has been published in the Friday, May 3rd, edition of Nunatsiaq News in which the director of business development for NTI, Tagak Curley, is reported to have attributed to me statements which were never made and others which have been distorted beyond recognition.

If the comments do accurately reflect what Mr. Curley has said, I must regrettably conclude that he has done a disservice to me and he has misled the people of the Nunavut region at a time when we can't afford to be divided.

At no time have I suggested that I am under pressure from anyone to delay the implementation of article 24 of the Nunavut final agreement. Further, I have never suggested to anyone that there are Cabinet Ministers

who opposed the implementation of article 24. To imply that this is the case, does nothing to advance the resolution of the issue, which troubles me greatly, as a considerable amount of work has been dedicated to deciding on how we can proceed, so we not only ensure continued compliance with article 24, but do so in a way which advances the principles contemplated by article 24.

The one point that Mr. Curley and I do agree upon, is that there is a great need for certainty regarding the implementation of article 24. A good place to start would be for Mr. Curley to listen closely in the future so that when he chooses to speak for me, which I would prefer that he not do, he can do so with a modest degree of accuracy.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents.

ITEM 14: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. SPEAKER:

In accordance with section 164(2) of the Elections Act, I wish to table Tabled Document 30-13(3), the report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada in French, English and syllabics, titled: "Looking to the Future" which covers the administration of the Northwest Territories general election of October 16, 1995, as well as the administration of the Kitikmeot 1993 and Aivilik 1995 by-elections.

Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 31-13(3), results of a survey which was conducted in March of this year. This random survey was done in my constituency of Yellowknife South. The survey was in response to my need to understand how my constituents felt about the current deficit and their feelings on budget reductions. I hope my fellow Members will take the time to review this survey, as I feel it is representative of a comparable cross-section of people in my riding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Item 14, tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Mr. Miltenberger.

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ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 5-13(3): Referral Of Tabled Document 30-13(3), Report Of The Chief Electoral Officer To Standing Committee

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, May 6th, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Tabled Document 30-13(3), report of the Chief Electoral Officer, titled: "Looking to the Future" be referred to the Standing Committee on Government Operations for detailed consideration.

And further, that the Standing Committee on Government Operations reports its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly during the fall sitting. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 11, Appropriation Act, 1996-97; Committee Report 1-13(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 1996-97 Main Estimates; Committee Report 2-13(3), Standing Committee on Infrastructure Report on the Review of the 1996-97 Main Estimates; Committee Report 3-13(3), Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development Report on the Review of the 1996-97 Main Estimates; Committee Report 4-13(3), Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the Review of the 1996-97 Main Estimates, with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

ITEM 20: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Committee of the Whole will come to order. For consideration in Committee of the Whole, we have Bill 11, Appropriation Act, 1996-97; Committee Report 1-13(3); Committee Report 2-13(3); Committee Report 3-13(3); and, Committee

Report 4-13(3). What is the wish of the committee?
Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest that in light of our impending Caucus meeting with two Members of Parliament, we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We have a motion to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. Opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

I will now rise and report progress to the Speaker.
Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The committee will come back to order. We are on item 21, report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 21: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Seconder is Mr. Roland. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

--- Carried

Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 3, Members' statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Natilikmiot is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 3, Members' statements. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Go ahead, Mr. Ningark.

REVERT TO ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Members' Absences From The House

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a courtesy, I would like to inform the House that Mr. Levi Barnabas, Mr. Ed Picco and Mr. Kevin O'Brien will be absent from the House doing their constituency business. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Today?

--- Interjection

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement On Super Soccer Tournament

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thought I would take advantage of the Member for Natilikmiot getting us back to Members' statements to make a statement. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Members from Yellowknife and all the people of Yellowknife, I would like to welcome the participants to this weekend's super soccer tournament in Yellowknife.

--- Applause

This tournament kicks off tonight and runs through the weekend, until Sunday. There are teams representing 17 communities from across the Territories participating in this tournament; teams, in fact, from all regions of the Northwest Territories. By my quick, unofficial count, there are teams from constituencies of at least 17 Members of this House here for the tournament. In all, there will be 144 teams participating in the tournament, with over 1,400 participants.

I think this is an amazing event and it shows that indoor soccer has become one of the biggest sports in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, in order to participate in this tournament, all of the participants must be attending school. As you might expect, in order to carry off this tournament, all of the gymnasiums in Yellowknife will have to be used for the competition.

The opening ceremonies tonight will feature a welcoming speech by the Premier and by the Honourable Manik Thompson. I will be there, as well, and at the closing ceremonies, our MP, Ethel Blondin-Andrew, will be participating on Sunday. I am sure that all of the Members will take the opportunity, if they're in town this weekend, to get out and cheer on the teams, especially the teams from their home communities. I'm sure that this promises to be a good weekend for soccer, and I'm sure that we'll see good sportsmanship from all.

I know that all Members would like to join me in wishing all of the teams the best of luck. I know that the Member for Yellowknife North has a vested interest because he tells me that his son, Cody, will be playing for the Weledeh team this weekend. I would like to ask all Members to join me in welcoming these players to Yellowknife and to get out and see them this weekend as they play. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, item 23, orders of the day.

ITEM 23: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the full Caucus at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Social Programs at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, and on Monday morning of the Standing Committee on Government Operations at 9:00 a.m.

Orders of the day for Monday, May 6, 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
 - Motion 5-13(3), Referral of Tabled Document 30-13(3), Report of the Chief Electoral Officer to a Standing Committee
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
 - Committee Report 1-13(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 1996-97 Main Estimates
 - Committee Report 2-13(3), Standing Committee on

Infrastructure Report on the Review of the
1996-97 Main Estimates

- Committee Report 3-13(3), Standing
Committee on Resource Management and
Development
Report on the Review of the 1996-97 Main Estimates

- Committee Report 4-13(3), Standing
Committee on

Social Programs Report on the Review of
the 1996-97 Main Estimates

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 Monday, May 6, 1996, at 1:30 p.m.

--- ADJOURNMENT