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**The Honourable Samuel Gargan, Speaker**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

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**SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):**

Orders of the day, item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

Minister's Statement 38-13(3): GNWT Obligations Related To Article 24

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce the position Cabinet will take regarding administration of article 24 of the Nunavut final agreement. As Members know, there have been differences of opinion on what article 24 of the NFA requires. This has resulted in ongoing discussions with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated over the past few months on the government's policies and procedures on article 24.

Based upon a careful review of our obligations as set out in the NFA, a review of the positions of the parties at the time of the negotiation of the NFA, and as a result of what I believe were productive discussions with NTI over the course of the past few months, we will be making some amendments to contracting procedures for 1996-97 and beyond.

I felt it was important to provide Members of the Legislative Assembly with a short report on the key elements of the approach we will take, not only to fulfil our obligations under article 24 but, more importantly, to ensure that we proceed with economic activity in the Nunavut region in a manner which maximizes access to opportunity for Inuit who are beneficiaries

under the Nunavut final agreement. Moving to make sure that Inuit are involved to the maximum degree possible in building infrastructure for Nunavut and in other government-initiated economic activity is, for me, the cornerstone for building a solid foundation for the future of the government and the people of what will become Nunavut in April 1999.

I had hoped to have ready for tabling today a detailed document that would set out precisely how we intend to proceed in future on the article 24 issue. Unfortunately, the document is not yet in final form and it will be another week before I am able to formally table it. I felt it was important, however, to tell Members now and, more importantly, the people of the Nunavut region, about the core elements of how we intend to proceed.

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, for me, at the heart of everything we must do in building for Nunavut is the need to aggressively advance access to opportunity for Inuit throughout the region. (Translation ends)

Developing bid adjustments for Inuit firms is not, in my view, the best way, or even a good way, to achieve that objective. What we need to do is move to make certain that, to the maximum degree possible, Inuit firms will get the work available where they have the qualifications to get the job done. Furthermore, we need to vigorously implement training opportunities and economic development seminars that will help Inuit firms to take maximum advantage of the opportunities which should be available to them. We will do that, Mr. Speaker.

Creating opportunities for Inuit firms is important. Even more essential is the need to get Inuit involved as much as possible at every level of economic activity. For me, that is the central and most important aspect of article 24. We need to get people working on building for the future. It is this principle that I have emphasized in instructing my officials to redesign the GNWT approach to article 24.

What this means in real terms is that government, through our revised policy on article 24, is making a clear commitment to enhance existing arrangements by establishing and vigorously enforcing minimum Inuit employment content for contracts with employment components. These minimum employment content levels will vary depending on the nature of the contract and the location of the work, but will be published in the tender documents. The guiding principle, as I mentioned earlier, will be to maximize access to opportunity for Inuit. Our goal is

to ensure that beneficiaries of the Nunavut claim benefit directly from government expenditures in their communities. The jobs created through this change will go a long way towards providing Nunavut residents with the skills they will need as well as genuine access to opportunity.

On construction contracts and complex goods and service contracts, the government will set a minimum percentage of the service that must be provided by Inuit firms. In the case of an award for professional services, for example, the government will establish evaluation criteria to take into account the need for as much Inuit content as is reasonably possible in proposals. This, in my view, is what matters to people the most.

The government's business incentive policy will continue to be applied in Nunavut, but this will be done in a manner which seeks to level the playing field for new Inuit

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businesses. Here also, the emphasis will be on skill development and access to opportunity.

Officials are now at work in the development of seminars on bidding and contract procedures to assist Inuit business people to improve their skills in accessing government contracts. The government will make these seminars available to all communities and businesses as they are needed. Contract guidelines will be translated into Inuktitut and tendering procedures will be changed in order to increase the participation of Inuit firms in government contract awards. These procedures will apply to all government contracting authorities.

The government will advertise its intention to negotiate any contract 21 days prior to the award. During this period, if one or more qualified Inuit firms express an interest in the contract, the government will then proceed by way of competitive process. Mr. Speaker, the first such contract will be advertised in northern newspapers within the next week to provide notice of the intent to enter into a negotiated contract with the Igloodik Construction Group to build the fire hall in that community.

Furthermore, I am pleased to advise Members that, together with the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, we will, along with aboriginal groups and small business, be developing yet further options to enhance aboriginal and local access to economic

opportunity, not only in the Nunavut region but through the Northwest Territories.

I make no apology for taking the position that through the NWT we should be aggressively moving ahead on increasing aboriginal employment. It should have been done a long time ago, Mr. Speaker. With the support of my colleagues, and particularly Mr. Kakfwi, I intend to exercise the leadership necessary to get the job done.

My Cabinet colleagues and I are satisfied that the changes we are making will address the spirit and intent of article 24 of the NFA. We are confident that the changes will provide an acceptable level of support to beneficiaries. It has taken us longer than it should have to make these important changes, but I am satisfied that taking the time necessary has yielded the best possible result: one which rejects enriching the few in favour of maximizing opportunity for the many in the most equitable way possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Premier.

Minister's Statement 39-13(3): Minister Absent From The House

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Kelvin Ng will be absent from the House for the remainder of the week to attend a federal/territorial/provincial Ministers of Justice meeting in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Minister's Statement 40-13(3): Western NWT Aboriginal Leaders' Forum

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House about significant progress that was made by aboriginal leaders from the western NWT at the self-government forum held in Yellowknife from April 23 to 25, 1996.

Mr. Speaker, this forum provided an opportunity for First Nations, Metis and Inuvialuit leaders to discuss the implementation of self-government and the development of a new system of government for the Western Arctic Territory.

It is important to note that this is the first time in six years that Dene and Metis leaders from all communities have come together to discuss these important issues. It is the first time ever that the Inuvialuit have been involved in such a gathering.

Leaders attending this forum forged renewed working relationships and built on common goals. Participants noted a new willingness to stand side by side in addressing aboriginal rights, identifying common goals and creating a political climate in which we can make progress on issues which require focused and urgent attention.

For the last two days of the leadership forum, delegates held their meeting in the great hall of the Legislative Assembly and I would like to express appreciation to both you, Mr. Speaker, and to the Premier for the assistance you provided in making these arrangements.

Based on this emerging new relationship and on the results of anticipated future meetings with the summit, we foresee establishing a focused workplan with First Nations, the Metis and the Inuvialuit, as we move toward meeting the challenges of creating new systems of governance in the Western Arctic.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate aboriginal leaders for their successful forum and to express my confidence in the emerging process. This government and

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the aboriginal leadership are working together and we will continue to work together. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Minister's Statement 41-13(3): Reducing Local Sulphur Dioxide Air Pollution

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yellowknife residents have been concerned for many years about air pollution. I am pleased to advise you of steps that are being taken to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions from local sources in Yellowknife and throughout the Northwest Territories.

The Government of the Northwest Territories will immediately initiate public consultation on draft regulations to control air emissions from gold roasters. The draft gold roaster discharge control regulations will provide enforceable tools that the Department of Renewable Resources can use to protect our environment from harmful effects caused by the emission of sulphur dioxide. The draft regulations complement the territorial air quality guideline established in 1994 which identifies levels of sulphur dioxide that should not be exceeded in order to prevent environmental and human health problems.

The draft regulations will require all gold roasting operations, including Miramar Con and the Giant Yellowknife Mine, to report their sulphur dioxide emissions. Sulphur dioxide emissions from the Giant Yellowknife Mine will not be allowed to rise above current rates, and changes to their roaster stack will provide significant reductions in air pollution levels. Within 10 years, sulphur dioxide emissions from the Giant roaster would have to be reduced by 90 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that these draft regulations are being distributed to stakeholders for consultation. Members of the public may also obtain copies from the Department of Renewable Resources. Once consultation has been completed, the regulations will be revised and implemented. We are confident that industry can comply with these regulations without affecting their economic viability.

Mr. Speaker, I want to assure all Members of this House that this government is serious about protecting the health of our environment and constituents in a manner that still encourages economic development to proceed. Mahsi.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Minister's Statement 42-13(3): Launching The M V Merv Hardie -Fort Providence Ferry Crossing

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, springtime at the Department of Transportation is that time of year when the department is swamped with telephone calls from the public asking when the ferries will resume service at our five ferry crossings in the Western Arctic. The tremendous interest every year with the ferry service goes to show how, in so many ways, our lives are affected by the transportation system and how, most of the time, we can take it for granted.

The ferries go back into service when the rivers are clear of ice. When exactly that will happen is no more predictable than next week's weather. Historically, our best guess is that the M V Merv Hardie will slide down the Fort Providence slipways into the Mackenzie River some time during the week of May 15th.

The M V Merv Hardie that returns to service this spring is not the same ship that came out of the water last January. Over the winter, work crews cut the ferry in half, inserted a new section of hull and welded it back together 20 feet longer than it was.

The rebuilt Merv Hardie meets Transport Canada's new stability regulations for roll-on/roll-off vessels. More importantly, with its longer deck and greater hull displacement, the Merv Hardie can carry four B-train trucks at a time across the Mackenzie River. Vehicle traffic at the Fort Providence crossing has grown steadily in recent years. Its increased carrying capacity means that the ferry will keep up with the traffic for several more years before we need to replace it with a larger ship.

I am proud to tell the Members that the whole \$1.3 million job was done in the North, from start to finish...

--- Applause

... by northern companies and northern workers. The Northern Transportation Company Ltd. did the structural steel work in Hay River and Snowshoe Inn did the installation, fitting and reassembly work on site at Fort Providence.

The Merv Hardie is ready for launch as soon as the ice in the Mackenzie River decides to cooperate. However, before the telephones start ringing, I want to let everyone know that because of the work that has been done on it, the Merv Hardie has to pass two days of trials and testing before it can carry traffic. So once the ferry is in the river, we will have to wait two

more days before the Fort Providence crossing can open. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

---Applause

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**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement On Federal Government Funding For Nunavut Infrastructure

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, my devoted fans.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Hear! Hear!

**MR. PICCO:**

Mr. Speaker, the announced funding for the incremental and transitional costs for Nunavut has caused much concern for several of us here at the Legislative Assembly, as noted over the past couple of days. According to the press conference held by the federal Minister, Mr. Irwin, the announced funding of \$150 million was based on the NIC-recommended decentralized model form of government.

Mr. Speaker, that is one of the reasons that Iqaluit was chosen as the new capital of Nunavut by the majority of voters. That is why many Nunavutians supported the decentralized model. The decentralized model of government would ensure that the benefits from decentralization would be evenly spread around Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, the cost of said decentralization, based on numbers in the original NIC report and the Coopers, Lybrand study, would indicate that the decentralization that was anticipated may not happen.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the Nunavut Leaders' Summit in Arviat at the end of the week, to find out what decentralized model the federal government based their numbers on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Item 3, Members' statements.  
Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement On Hardship Caused On GNWT  
Employees Due To Loss Of VTA

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I read with great interest a recent editorial in the Nunatsiaq News about the effect of the reduction in vacation travel benefits on GNWT employees in Nunavut. The editorial pointed out that most ordinary people don't get a VTA benefit at all, that government employees are lucky to have had that benefit. I agree. The editorial also pointed out that when you take into account the loss of vacation travel benefits, people with families are hit harder than single people...

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Shame. Shame.

**MR. BARNABAS:**

... and people who live in remote communities like those communities in my constituency, lose even more. I also agree with these points made in the editorial.

However, Mr. Speaker, the editorial goes on to say that the loss of the VTA may not be important if it is considered as a recreational benefit and not as income.

Of course, those people are fortunate to have government jobs. However, Mr. Speaker, let us not forget that these people are doing very difficult jobs and are working under increasing stress. They are expected to work even harder, with fewer resources, even as their cost of living increases very fast.

Take a look at the situation of an employee who lives in staff housing, for example. My constituents who work for the government have seen step increases in their staff housing rents and have recently been required to pay for utilities. Sharp increases in the cost of staff housing have made it very difficult for many government employees, especially those who are supporting their own and extended families with their wages. In many cases, they are trapped in increasingly expensive staff housing. To make it worse, unlike better developed communities with a private rental market, my constituents who work for

the government don't have any alternatives to living in staff housing.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With no wage increases for years and sharp increases in the cost of living, they certainly can't afford to build their own houses either.

So how does the VTA benefit fit into this picture? Mr. Speaker, Nunatsiaq News suggests that the VTA is now what they call "an outdated relic of colonial times, when it was assumed that the territorial government's workforce would be made up of transient southerners who need extra incentives to live and work in the far north." Mr. Speaker, that does not describe the situation today. Most of my constituents who work for the GNWT are long-term Northerners. They are working in remote communities because they are committed to serving the public; as teachers, nurses or social workers, for example. For them, the VTA is not a recreational benefit. It has become an increasingly essential part of their income at a time when the cost of living and housing has increased very sharply. For my Inuit constituents who should be encouraged to work for the government, the VTA is most often used to finance family trips on the land and to allow the family to buy an outboard motor or skidoo for year-round use. The VTA income was especially valuable to these employees because when spent on vacation travel, whether in the South or in the North, it was a tax-free benefit. Cutting the VTA means

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employees lose not only what they consider to be an income, but also a tax-free benefit.

For my constituents who are doing these difficult jobs, Mr. Speaker, on the front lines in our communities, the VTA is considered as income, and the larger families who are further away from Yellowknife are the ones who are hit the hardest.

I am not concerned whether this is called unfair to Nunavut or not. What I am concerned about is that

these front-line workers are getting discouraged. They are starting to feel that their employer does not appreciate their dedication and experience. What I am also concerned about is that employees with larger families who live in remote communities are losing more. Is this fair and equitable? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Mr. Todd's Visit To Fort Smith To Discuss GNWT Budget

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday evening, the Minister of Finance came to Fort Smith for a community meeting; the first community he was to visit to discuss this budget. I would like to thank Mr. Todd for making that effort.

--- Applause

As soon as the Minister is finished clapping for himself, I'll conclude my statement.

--- Laughter

There were about 30 people who showed up and there was a frank, far-ranging discussion. I would like to point out that Mr. Todd was neither hectoring, vilified or pilloried by any of the people in Fort Smith.

--- Laughter

He would have been if Mr. Picco had been there.

I would like to thank the Minister, and I think it's important that we take that kind of information to the public and stress the need not only to cut the deficit, but to move forward in the area of employment and development, and to take the focus off of government and onto the private sector and economy. So, thank you.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 13, Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement On Transfer Of Occupational Health And Safety To WCB

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The transfer of occupational health and safety from the Department of Safety and Public Services to the Workers' Compensation Board has been the subject of a lot of talk, a lot of comment and some controversy. The action has been criticized by both labour and business across the Northwest Territories. Editorials have been written in the newspaper about it. Petitions have been sent to us, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, and we have received letters from workers and businesses. Those letters outlined people's concern about the lack of planning.

The NWT Federation of Labour petitioned the Honourable Ron Irwin, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to intervene in his capacity as Minister responsible for the NWT Act. The chairman of the WCB has publicly admitted that the transfer was not the idea of the board of directors of the Workers' Compensation Board. Unfortunately, the government has ignored the concerns and requests and proceeded with the transfer, even though the required legislation is not yet in place.

The concept of the Workers' Compensation Board was created by agreements between business and labour to establish a no-fault insurance program to cover the costs resulting from work-related injuries, fatalities and industrial diseases. The Workers' Compensation Board is funded by business. Therefore, there is a need for a critical, long-term success of the Workers' Compensation Board and in order to get that, the full participation and support from business and labour must be obtained when making major changes to responsibilities and policies.

I would like to mention that next week, May 15th to 17th, the Standing Committee on Government Operations will be reviewing the Workers' Compensation Act and seeking public input into this. I urge all those companies and organizations that have expressed concern about this to provide their input to the Standing Committee on Government Operations. I believe they will be meeting between May 15th and 17th.

Also, I will be pursuing this subject during question period, Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Supporting Northern Care  
Facilities And Programs

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My remarks over the last few weeks have been with regard to programs and service delivery in communities, as well as in Yellowknife with regard to the cuts to care facilities such as the psychiatric ward of the hospital.

Government's words were to try to avoid cutting those areas where people need the services the most. Those cuts that have taken place are affecting those people in the most need, especially relating to the care of disabled people, physiotherapy programs, alcohol and drug programs, to healing programs for families.

Over the last few weeks, I have spoken about the Tl'oondih Healing Society and the accomplishments this facility has had over the year. There have been 220 people go through

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their programs. There is a waiting list of 250 people to enter a program; that means we have a problem out there. The interest of individuals to try to get into this program is coming all the way from Alaska and some of the southern provinces such as Manitoba and Ontario. I think we seriously have to look at exactly what the goal of this government is. Is it to become more self-sufficient with regard to programs and services in the North or is it to continue the old trend of sending people to southern institutions at a cost triple what it costs to deliver it in the North?

We have a lot of our young people in southern institutions and foster care. They are at Bellwood, Poundmakers and other areas in southern Canada. There is the cost of medical travel to southern institutions. We are paying the large southern institution such as hospitals to guarantee beds from \$320 to \$400 a day. Yet, this government ... I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the overall cost to this government continuing to depend on southern institutions and not support initiatives of aboriginal groups and individual programs to help the elderly and the youth ... This could be one of the better institutions in Canada. The program we have at the Tl'oondih Healing Society is the second program and maybe the only program that is structured to deliver a family-oriented healing program where it encompasses parents, children and grandparents to deal with matters that have affected them for the last decade. Some of their problems are incarcerations in southern institutions, the hostel systems you hear about and the day-to-day stress of having to live in the communities and live with alcoholism, drug abuse and suicides.

This government has to clearly come up and state a position on supporting northern institutions to their fullest or are they there just as a band-aid solution to carry out programs, but not giving them the support they need to adequately do the job that will benefit everyone in the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Adequacy Of Incremental  
Funding For Nunavut Infrastructure

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleagues, good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of concerns expressed in this Assembly about the adequacy of the funding announced recently by the federal government for Nunavut. I am very much looking forward to learning more about exactly what the federal government is planning on spending on education and infrastructure in Nunavut. We need to know who will be responsible for managing these expenditures. We need to have more detail about what capital projects the federal government is planning.

All these questions, and more, should be asked of Mr. Irwin and his officials when he meets with the Nunavut Caucus and Nunavut leaders in Arviat this coming weekend.



Mr. Speaker, I wish to note today that it appears that the federal Cabinet has accepted the decentralized model for the Nunavut government in its recent decision.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I noted from a news report in Nunatsiaq News, dated May 3, 1996, that Mr. John Rayner, assistant deputy minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, says that Ottawa has endorsed the NIC government structure. "The structure of the government that is contained within the \$150 million is as it was set out in the NIC report, and we have taken that and we have cost that out," Mr. Rayner is quoted as saying. Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged by this news and I am looking forward to getting more details of how this will affect Pangnirtung and other larger Baffin communities.

Although I know it will not be easy, I am very much looking forward to working to make Nunavut a reality. I know that the mayor and hamlet council and other leaders in Pangnirtung will be very pleased if Nunavut will mean new job opportunities for them in their very rapidly-growing community. Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker. Koana, matna, mahsi cho.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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Member's Statement On Northern Addictions Services' Solvent Abuse Program

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the youth inhalant abuse program run by Northern Addictions Services in Yellowknife. The solvent abuse program is currently being funded through Health

Canada; however, Health Canada will discontinue funding the program at the end of June.

Mr. Speaker, this program specifically targets Inuit and aboriginal youth between the ages of 12 and 17. The treatment program is an eight-bed facility designed to treat youth who have addiction problems to solvents, alcohol and drugs. Since January of 1994 to today, 30 youth from the West and 30 from the East have received services from this program, and there is currently a waiting list of 10 youth who have been referred from various places in the North.

The NWT presently has the youngest population in Canada and the highest birthrate. Over 40 per cent of our population is under the age of 20. Youth 15 to 24 make up 28 per cent of our working-age population, in comparison to 21 per cent for the rest of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, resources are scarce for the youth of the NWT and, in the past, some youth from the North have been sent to the White Spruce Treatment Centre in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, for alcohol and drug treatment at a cost of \$16,000 to \$20,000 per youth. This centre will be closed in the very near future. Currently, there are over 100 beds for adults in the NWT for alcohol and drug addiction. There are presently only eight beds for youth. If the youth treatment program is allowed to close on June 30th, there will be no beds available to youth for treatment in alcohol, drug and solvent abuse programs.

Mr. Speaker, the youth are our future. With the Department of Health and Social Services community wellness initiative and move toward early intervention, it is important that this program be supported, even if funding from adult treatment programs must be diverted in order to do this.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Absence From The House

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to make a short statement today. I will be out of the House tomorrow. I am leaving this afternoon for Ottawa to make a presentation to a subcommittee on health warning labels on liquor products. I will be there to represent the Department of Safety and Public

Services. On the way back, I get to go home to be with my family and visit with constituents. I would like to say hi to everybody back home.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Multi-Uses Of Existing Community Facilities

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we go through this process of reviewing the budget, I would like to take note of comments that two of our Ministers have made recently in this House. The first is from the Minister of Education who, yesterday in his introductory remarks, stated "We are also proposing to reduce the capital programs from \$35 million last year to about \$25 million in 1996-97. This will be done mostly by delaying many planned projects for a year."

The second comment was made by the Minister of Community Affairs where she stated, "There are too many instances where buildings lie empty in the evening and unused on weekends, when they can be used for hosting a variety of educational, cultural and recreational activities." She says, "Joint-use facility agreements can help local groups access facilities after working hours."

Mr. Speaker, as we deliberate over this budget, I would ask my fellow Members to take heed of these two statements and look at implementing further delays to projects that will not negatively impact community life. We can, as Mrs. Thompson suggests, use existing facilities in communities for other activities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Break-up Of Mackenzie And Liard Rivers

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, ice break-up is a highlight for people who live along the Mackenzie and Liard Rivers. It is a time of the year when there is

a lot of excitement and anticipation in the air. Mr. Speaker, therefore, I would like to update Members of this House on the Liard and the Mackenzie Rivers break up around Fort Simpson.

Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 1st, at about 9:00 p.m., the ice broke in the Liard River and started the whole process of pushing the ice down towards Fort Simpson. On the evening of Thursday, at approximately 8:30, this ice broke out into the Mackenzie in front of Fort Simpson. The next day, on Friday, May 3rd, this ice jam broke and pushed out into the Mackenzie. At approximately 8:00 that evening, this tremendous pressure from the Liard River caused the Mackenzie to break up in a very spectacular fashion in front of the community of Fort Simpson.

There are huge piles of ice along the riverbank in front of Fort Simpson. In a lot of places, it is spilling onto the front road. So, as you can imagine, it is a very spectacular sight this time of the year.

Mr. Speaker, since then, the ice on the Liard River has cleared and I am told that the ferry in Fort Simpson is in the water. Hopefully, they will have operation of this ferry by noon tomorrow. This means there will probably be an exodus of people from Fort Simpson onto the highway. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

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

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a return to the honourable Mr. Erasmus with regard to legislation prohibiting consumption of alcohol by pregnant women. The question he asked was on May 2nd.

Mr. Speaker, on July 23, 1994, the Denendeh National Assembly at Lutsel K'e passed a resolution which proposed amending the NWT Liquor Act to: "Make it illegal for pregnant women to knowingly consume alcohol."

It should be noted that a similar recommendation, calling on the Government of the Northwest Territories to make it illegal for licensed premises and liquor stores to sell alcohol beverages to pregnant women, had been received earlier in the liquor law review from the NWT Status of Women Council and was supported by the Native Women's Association. The Status of Women Council later retracted this recommendation.

The concept that new liquor legislation should provide limitations on the sale of liquor to, or consumption of liquor by, pregnant women received considerable attention in the media and stimulated further discussion during public meetings and community gatherings held as part of the liquor law review. Feedback was also received through a survey questionnaire that was distributed to mailbox and post office locations in NWT communities. Opinions supporting the concept were received from some survey respondents, from a minority of participants in public meetings, and from staff in several licensed premises. However, far more northerners expressed opposition to the idea and identified a number of enforcement, health policy and legal difficulties.

It was noted, for instance, that enforcement of any provisions which attempted to prohibit the sale to, purchase by and/or consumption of liquor by pregnant women would be very difficult. Such legislation would place an onus on managers or servers in licensed establishments to recognize female patrons who were in various stages of pregnancy. Questions were raised as to the effectiveness of penalties that could be legislated in the event that these prohibitions were included in a new Liquor Act.

Further, there are risks that such restrictions could create unintended harm to the health of expectant mothers. For some, this legislation might encourage a more secretive pattern of alcohol use, or the substitution of other intoxicants. There is also a risk that women struggling with alcohol dependency during their pregnancy might be inclined to avoid seeing their physicians or nurses for prenatal care, simply because they believe there could be legal consequences for liquor use. Some people told the liquor law review that such restrictions could send a message which "scapegoated" women, although it was recognized that this had never been the intent of the original resolution.

As well, there are strong possibilities that a constitutional challenge could be mounted against a Liquor Act provision which attempted to prohibit

pregnant women from buying, possessing or being served alcohol. It is very possible that liquor legislation which resulted in a denial of services or access to services provided under the control of the government would not be recognized by the courts.

Officials working with the liquor law review analyzed the Dene Nation resolution and similar recommendations carefully and with respect for the serious manner in which they had been made. After considerable review, however, it became clear that the difficulties associated with the proposal were sufficient to prevent its further consideration. The conclusion was that this is a problem which is not going to be solved by enacting new legislation.

Accordingly, I have instructed the department not to include any sort of liquor restrictions specific to pregnant women in the legislative proposal that is now being finalized for Cabinet consideration.

Solutions lie in increased community understanding and in workable educational and community support interventions. We believe that broader communication of the risks associated with excessive or irresponsible alcohol consumption is vital if we are going to address many of the health and social problems which plague northern communities. This is why the NWT Liquor Commission attaches health warning labels to alcohol beverage containers and is a full participant in national awareness campaigns. It is also a reason why the Government of the Northwest Territories will be sending a delegation to the House of Commons this week to appear as witnesses during public hearings on Bill C-222 which, if enacted, would make health warning labels mandatory on liquor containers sold elsewhere in Canada. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. O'Brien.

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**ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a well-known singer/song writer from Arviat, Mr. Paul K. Irksuk, and also a good friend of mine. Thank you.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a good friend of mine from Hay River, Pat Thomas. She is also the president of the NWTTA. Thank you.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize ABT Engineering of Rae-Edzo. The members are Tony Lafferty, Bob Johnson and Al Harman.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Welcome to the Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Before we go to oral questions, I have a ruling I would like to make.

**Speaker's Ruling**

(Translation) I have taken some time to consider the circumstances that occurred on May 2nd. At the end of question period of May 2nd, I made the following comment which is contained on page 407 of unedited Hansard, and I quote:

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

During the item tabling of documents, the Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Picco, tabled a document numbered 29-13(3). In the Member's tabling statement, he indicated the following which is contained on page 408 of the unedited Hansard, and I quote Mr. Picco's tabling statement:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 29-13(3), concerning question

period. Mr. Speaker, this tabled document states that question period should be extended for a duration allowing each Member a chance to ask as many questions as needed for the democratic process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

When the Member for Iqaluit made this statement, I indicated, without seeing the tabled document, the following:

"Are you challenging the chair? I will have to look at the tabled document further before the chair makes any kind of ruling regarding the tabled document. It will be reviewed." (Translation ends)

I have since had an opportunity to review the tabled document and find that Mr. Picco did not, in his tabling statement or within the content of the tabled document, challenge the chair, so there is no need for me to rule further on this matter.

I would, however, like to indicate to the Member for Iqaluit and other Members, if they have a concern with any of the rules of the Assembly, that they are free to raise the matter with the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges.

While I have your attention, I would like to indicate, as Speaker, that during question period I endeavour to be as fair as possible when recognizing Members to ask an oral question. I can understand a Member's frustration that I may not have your name on the list, but I can assure you that if I see you your name will go on the chair's list and I will ensure that, within the time limit allowed, questions are fairly and proportionally distributed amongst all Members.

Also, I would like to remind Members that the initial question to a Minister should contain a preamble that would provide the framework and background to the actual question. Each Member is entitled to ask three supplementary questions on the same original question. The purpose of the supplementary questions is to obtain clarification of the answer or answers provided by the Minister to whom the original question was directed and should, therefore, not require a preamble. If Members require further clarification, I would draw your attention to the rule books that were provided to all Members and specifically to the section on procedural information where you will find information on question period which may be of assistance.

If all Members are a little more diligent in adhering to the application of the rules, I am confident that the

democratic process will not be impeded in any way. I thank you for your attention.

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

#### ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 169-13(3): Tabling Of All GNWT Contracts

##### **MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your ruling and will abide by your statement. I didn't mean to propose to challenge the chair, and I apologize for anything that I put you through. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my frustration level is reaching its zenith with the following line of questioning. Once again, I burned the midnight oil in the library looking for the ever-elusive list of contracts which I have now spent a week asking about, which I've been assured is tabled annually in this House. Ever the bloodhound, I finally discovered an item tabled March 4, 1993, entitled "Government Services and Public Works Contracts Negotiated in 1992-93." Further, I found the second item, titled "Report on Negotiated Contracts

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Awarded by the Department of Transportation in 1992-93, 1993-94." These were the only documents I discovered when reviewing tabled documents for the past five years.

I assume that tabling lists of contracts by this government is sporadic at best. Would the Premier be willing to reaffirm his commitment to ensure the list of both sole-source and negotiated contracts are tabled in this House annually? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

##### **MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 169-13(3): Tabling Of All GNWT Contracts

##### **HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me assure the Member that I will make sure that Members of this House will have access to that information. Thank you.

##### **MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 169-13(3): Tabling Of All GNWT Contracts

##### **MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I enjoy having access so I can find something. Would the Premier be willing to publish this comprehensive list of all negotiated and sole-source contracts annually in the public accounts report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

##### **MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 169-13(3): Tabling Of All GNWT Contracts

##### **HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I told the Member earlier ... and I, too, did a little bit of research after question period yesterday and I discovered that that information was traditionally shared with the SCOF committee and it is now shared with that committee that has the mandate for dealing with contracts in this government. So I would be happy to share that same information with this Member. Thank you.

##### **MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 169-13(3): Tabling Of All GNWT Contracts

##### **MR. PICCO:**

Mr. Speaker, as I've stated, it can be shared with the Standing Committee on Government Operations which I have the pleasure of serving on but, Mr. Speaker, those documents aren't being tabled. So I'm asking the Minister again, will he publish the sole-source and negotiated contracts of this government, public money spent for the public use, public good, in the public accounts report which they are not presently being published?

##### **MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 169-13(3): Tabling Of All GNWT Contracts

##### **HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be happy to share with this House all negotiated contracts entered into by this government. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you.

Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 169-13(3): Tabling Of All GNWT Contracts

**MR. PICCO:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I heard the negotiated contracts, how about the sole-source contracts and when?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 169-13(3): Tabling Of All GNWT Contracts

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once that information is ready to share with Members, I will share it with them. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 170-13(3):GNWT Support For Nunavut Decentralized Government

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the recent announcement by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development concerning funding for Nunavut has raised many questions about the organizational structure of the new Nunavut government. The NIC has recommended a decentralized government that will ensure that all functions of government and the jobs associated with those functions are spread amongst the communities in Nunavut. While my constituents were pleased to hear Mr. Irwin endorse a decentralized government for Nunavut, they are somewhat concerned about the level of funding that has been established. My question is to the Minister of Finance, in his role as chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Divisio. Could the Minister inform this House whether this

government has taken position in support of decentralized government to Nunavut?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 170-13(3): GNWT Support For Nunavut Decentralized Government

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you. The simple answer to the question is yes, this government has consistently stated that it supports the philosophy of a decentralized government. In fact, previous governments have worked hard to decentralize the current government in other parts of the Territories. I believe that the Premier will be responding today or tomorrow to the NIC report, to Mr. Kusugak and to Mr. Amagoalik, stating that position loud and clear. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

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Supplementary To Question 170-13(3): GNWT Support For Nunavut Decentralized Government

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister can understand, this issue is of great concern to the communities of Arviat and Baker Lake, who have long supported Nunavut and the establishment of a government that better serves their interest.

After the government's initial review of the details of the Minister's report, can the Minister inform us whether his analysis shows that the funding is sufficient to provide a decentralized government that will serve all communities of Nunavut and not simply the capital? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 170-13(3): GNWT Support For Nunavut Decentralized Government

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

That is a good question, Mr. Speaker, and one that is of concern to all of us, including Mr. Picco. At this

time, we are still taking a careful look at the numbers. I said the other day that it is our belief that we are talking about \$118 million and not \$150 million because there are significant costs associated with increasing the federal presence in Nunavut. I wouldn't be in a position today to give my honourable colleague any guarantees that the dollars involved in the transitional and incremental costs identified by the federal government would be able to meet the expectation of the NIC report and the decentralized model at this time.

That isn't to suggest that it isn't, but it does require further analysis and I am looking forward to a healthy and constructive debate this weekend with our partners in this issue, NTI and the federal government, and we will have a commission there to assist us in providing some briefings in an advisory capacity. So I think it would be premature for me to say that it isn't sufficient money to meet the expectations of the decentralized government, but it would be proper for me to say that we do have some serious concerns at this time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 170-13(3): GNWT Support For Nunavut Decentralized Government

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the serious concern regarding this issue, when can we expect the information regarding the Minister's opinion? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 170-13(3): GNWT Support For Nunavut Decentralized Government

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two issues and I tried to address that yesterday or the day before. One is the transitional incremental costs associated with Nunavut; that is the money that is required over and above the current gross expenditure base that we have within this government; and that is the \$150 million or \$117 million, depending on how you want to define it. We are currently working that through, as I said to my colleague earlier. What is of equal

importance and one that we have almost addressed is the process in which we are going to determine an appropriate plan of action as it relates to determining two gross expenditure bases for the operations and maintenance costs of the new governments. So they work in harmony with each other. I am hoping that over this weekend, I will get some direction and support on some of these hard and difficult questions from the Minister and some support from our colleagues and a process in which to work these important, long-term financial needs out. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 171-13(3): GNWT Position Regarding Article 24 Of NFA

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was pleased to learn today the progress which has been made by our government to respond to article 24 of the Nunavut final agreement. My question is to the Minister of Public Works and Services. When will this new policy come into effect?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 171-13(3): GNWT Position Regarding Article 24 Of NFA

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, the policy comes into effect immediately. Implementation will happen as practical. The section on negotiated contracts will be implemented immediately and next week, the first advertisements for the particular negotiated contract I mentioned will happen. Interim measures for minimal levels of Inuit participation will be implemented immediately for this summer with the formal policy being established by September.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Enuaraq.

Supplementary To Question 171-13(3): GNWT Position Regarding Article 24 Of NFA

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell this House what the real benefits are for Inuit that the GNWT expects to achieve through this policy on article 24?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 171-13(3): GNWT Position Regarding Article 24 Of NFA

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, the basic goals are for increased participation of Inuit in business opportunities in the Nunavut region. We want to improve the capacity of Inuit firms to be able to bid for and let government contracts and to increase the employment of Inuit beneficiaries in Nunavut at a representative level. So in short, those are the benefits that we want to see.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. I would like to recognize a member from the community of Enterprise, Mr. Karl Mueller. Welcome to the Assembly.

--- Applause

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 172-13(3): Exclusion Of North Slave Company From DOT Tender Call

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier or for the Minister of Transportation. On May 2, 1996, the mayor of Rae-Edzo and Grand Chief Joe Rabesca wrote a letter to you concerning a tender call made by the Department of Transportation, which was by invitation only for quality assurance work and Highway #3 on kilometre 165 to 175. As you may be aware, Rae-Edzo does have an active engineering company that is locally owned and operated for that active Dogrib ownership. This company strives to train local people in various aspects of the engineering field. However, due to a reluctance of the Department of Transportation in recognizing this company, they cannot get work in order to train our local people. It is imperative that our people receive training and education in the field of engineering.

Today I spoke to the owners of this company and their main concern is to be able to bid on various contracts that become available. There is no reason why they cannot. My question is, why has the Department of Transportation felt it was necessary not to include this company in the bidding process for this particular job, considering the high component of training that would take place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 172-13(3): Exclusion Of North Slave Company From DOT Tender Call

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the company the honourable Member is referring to is ABT Engineering. It is a new engineering consulting company. There are about 10 engineering consulting companies in and around Yellowknife that the department uses. This particular concern is with regard to a proposal that was put out by the Department of Transportation for quality assurance on Highway #3, which is kilometre 165 to 175. That is the section between the communities of Fort Providence and Rae-Edzo.

According to the department, the government has a policy which they use for utilizing architectural and engineering consultants. It is called the selection of architectural and engineering services policy, which is a directive of the BIP. This is what the department follows. Of the 10 firms, according to this policy, three firms are asked at a time. In a previous contract, ABT Engineering was included as one of the three for an adjacent piece of work. Unfortunately, BT was not successful. Other people had better proposals, so they weren't selected. This time around, another three firms were invited to put a bid in. This is how the department does its work in acquiring services of engineering consultants. It isn't the intention of the department to be reluctant in accepting an engineering firm. It is just the way the department has been doing business. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Rabesca.

Supplementary To Question 172-13(3): Exclusion Of North Slave Company From DOT Tender Call



**MR. RABESCA:**

Mr. Speaker, I think it is disappointing that you are only representing half of the people in the constituency. The closing date for the tenders is scheduled for some time this afternoon. I was hoping to ask the Minister whether he would be able to delay opening the tenders, so we will be able to have the company in question submit their bid, along with the three that you have selected so far.

I would further like to say northern preference should be included and the business incentive policy and the affirmative action policy should be practised to their fullest extent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 172-13(3): Exclusion Of North Slave Company From DOT Tender Call

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the concern of the honourable Member. Unfortunately, this concern came to my attention right around noon and the letter was written last Thursday from the leaders of the community to try to intervene. The proposal closes in five minutes. I am going to have to respond to the honourable Member in his request that I delay the tender schedule. I will not do that. I will let the tender go ahead. It is a proposal call. The bid is not public. There are three companies involved and they have done this according to the rules. I would like to keep that in place.

Like I said, there is the selection of architectural and engineering services policy that the department is following. I understand that ABT Engineering is aware of this policy. It is the practice of the Department of Transportation to follow this policy. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Rabesca.

Supplementary To Question 172-13(3): Exclusion Of North Slave Company From DOT Tender Call

**MR. RABESCA:**

Mr. Speaker, like I said earlier on, I would like to say that I wouldn't like to see this type of response coming from the Minister to happen in the future. If the

practice of northern preference or the business incentive policy is not being followed by the Minister, I wonder if he would be able to consider retendering the contract so that any company that operates within the Territories will not have to go through the same practice that we have experienced this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

That was your final supplementary, Mr. Rabesca. Mr. Antoine.

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Further Return To Question 172-13(3): Exclusion Of North Slave Company From DOT Tender Call

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said earlier, this issue came to my attention just about an hour before session started. So there is very little time to sit down with anyone who is involved in this company. Normally, if a company like that is concerned, they could contact me and we will discuss it at a time when we aren't under time pressure. There are other contracts that will be let out in that area. The honourable Member is requesting that this particular firm out of Rae-Edzo get preferential treatment in that area. You are going to have to consider that with the fact that there are another 10 firms out there. Depending on the composition, we are going to have to discuss this further in light of your request. It is a serious concern for the Member and for myself. Unfortunately, we can't really deal with it at this point. I would suggest that we get together with the people he represents, the department and look at this concern and see if we can resolve it for future work that may be coming up. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 173-13(3): Funding For NWT Tourism Training Group

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I raised a question May 1st with regard to funding to the tourism training program with the Premier. At this time, I would like to ask the question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. My question is regarding the possible cuts in the area of training.

The NWT Tourism Training Group has been in place for four years. It was established by the NWT Tourism Association. As you know, there is now a new establishment of tour operators which consists of an eastern tourism group and also a western tourism group. With tourism being one of the fastest-growing industries in the world and if we want to compete with other tour operators, we have to have trained and qualified individuals. Right now, the only arm for the tourism association is the NWT Tourism Training Group.

In 1995, the NWT Tourism Training Group submitted a proposal to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism for \$285,000 to administer and operate programs in the Northwest Territories, which includes the East and the West. In April 1996, they received a response back to their proposal, in which they were allocated \$175,000, which was broken down based on percentages; 40 per cent of those dollars will go to the eastern tourism association and 60 per cent to the West. Those resources which have been allocated, the group may have to close its doors and not be able to operate in this next fiscal year. At the present time, it does have contract obligations to Arctic College to deliver programs for next year based on the \$285,000 figure. My question is, will he reconsider the offer and sit down with this group to resolve this, so that both groups can continue to operate in the future. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 173-1313): Funding For NWT Tourism Training Group

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that there are some funding difficulties that have come as a result of the termination of the economic development agreement. I am not certain whether the recent access by the tourism training group to an additional \$175,000 of federal money, through the unaccessed portion of the EDA money, was sufficient to address the problem that the Member is speaking about. Because I am not totally familiar with this new department that I have responsibility for, I am prepared to sit down with representatives of the group to see what it is that they require in order to carry on as a viable operation, especially as we have a strong sense of commitment to promote tourism and find

ways in which to support that part of our economic sector. I would be pleased to see what we could do within existing resources to support that group and to look again at the 60/40 split in funding within that group for the eastern part of the Northwest Territories with the western part. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 173-13(3): Funding For NWT Tourism Training Group

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the Minister's statement, it's not a question about the 40/60 split; I think it's a question about the cost of delivering these programs with regard to the \$285,000 that has been identified in their submission in December 1995 and the response from the department at \$175,000, being able to carry it out and also being able to maintain their operation. My question to the Minister is can his department try to resolve this issue as soon as possible, with a possible meeting with the NWT tourism group.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 173-13(3): Funding For NWT Tourism Training Group

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a couple of ways to resolve it: One, we can meet, first of all, to decide whether or not there's any possibility for additional funds to be made accessible to this group. The other option is to advise this group if there are no additional funds available, to have that group give us some suggestions on how they can make do with the existing resources that are made available to them. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 174-13(3): Uncertainty Regarding GNWT Procurement Policies

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement yesterday, I expressed that we cannot expect the private sector to confidently invest in expansion and job creation when the rules are not clear on the government's procurement policies. Due to the uncertainty created by the proposed changes to the business incentive

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policy, community block funding and procurement articles in settlement agreements, there has been uncertainty created. The businesses in Hay River, in particular, have collectively invested millions of dollars in developing manufacturing ventures and job creation. This was partially in response to initiatives of this government to encourage import substitution. What steps is this government taking to protect the interests of this significant manufacturing base that has been established in my riding? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

It wasn't directed to anybody so, Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 174-13(3): Uncertainty Regarding GNWT Procurement Policies

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think myself, as well as the Minister responsible for Finance, in his budget speech, as well as the direction that this government is going, have made it very clear that we want to invest in the North and we want businesses to develop in the North and the policies of this government will reflect that. We will be clarifying in a very short period of time with clear direction from Cabinet on how we see communities, or whether it's housing authorities or community councils or whatever, how we see them spending dollars on behalf of this government and what conditions will be attached to those dollars. By next week, we should be able to make that a public document. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 174-13(3): Uncertainty Regarding GNWT Procurement Policies

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Did and does this government encourage private sector development, specifically in the area of manufacturing?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 174-13(3): Uncertainty Regarding GNWT Procurement Policies

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very clear to me, as the Minister who was responsible for DPW and was responsible for the Housing Corporation, in the last term. As Members know, it's clear in the history books now that manufacturing did start in the last four years in the Northwest Territories. The only way it started was by the support of this government; by this government helping manufacturers to develop their projects and buying from them in order for them to have a base so they can prosper and start manufacturing in the Northwest Territories. I think that was a major accomplishment by the previous government, and I'm sure it's not the intention of this government to kill that accomplishment. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 174-13(3): Uncertainty Regarding GNWT Procurement Policies

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of that support, does this government feel any responsibility towards these businesses that had been established, by giving them fair and equal opportunity to bid on the supply of all northern contracts?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 174-13(3): Uncertainty Regarding GNWT Procurement Policies

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not only should we have that responsibility to the manufacturers and to the business people in the Northwest Territories, I've given them fair and equal opportunity to contracts. We

should also make that public and full commitment to them. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Public Works and Services with regard to his statement he made earlier today. I listened with interest because I'm concerned about the precedent and impact on other claimant groups of commitments made by the government. I notice on page 2, and I'll quote: "The guiding principle, as I mentioned earlier, will be to maximize access to opportunity for Inuit." Could the Minister elaborate briefly on how you reconcile that with the role of the four birthright organizations?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

I apologize, Mr. Speaker; could I ask the Member to repeat the question? I didn't get it all.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 175-13(3): GNWT Position Regarding Article 24 Of NFA

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll restate the question. On page 2, you make reference to a guiding principle of the government's position being to maximize access of opportunity for Inuit. Could you just clarify for me whether that poses any potential conflict with the specific obligation that I'm aware of in terms of the four birthright organizations and their special place under article 24?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 175-13(3): GNWT Position Regarding Article 24 Of NFA

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, as far as I'm concerned, the statement and the policy that I announced this afternoon and the role of the birthright corporations are one and the same; that is, to maximize opportunities in employment for Inuit. With that, that the government and

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the birthright corporations and NTI should be working together to achieve that goal.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 175-13(3): GNWT Position Regarding Article 24 Of NFA

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does that mean that all other Inuit business will still have access to competitive bidding on contracts and such, or will that be a closed shop?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 175-13(3): GNWT Position Regarding Article 24 Of NFA

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, the intent of our policy is to maximize benefits for all Inuit private businesses, including the businesses that are run by the birthright corporations. It is for all beneficiaries.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 175-13(3): GNWT Position Regarding Article 24 Of NFA

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister further commented that the government has agreed to enter only into negotiated contracts when they have full support of the community and their MLA. Will the other two tenets for negotiated contracts be part of that package? Those two tenets being northern content and within budget.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 175-13(3): GNWT Position Regarding Article 24 Of NFA

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, the conditions attached to negotiated contracts remain the same; that is, those that the Member speaks of. Plus, on top of that, in the Nunavut region we will require the additional support and the time for interested Inuit firms to have a fair chance at those contracts, also.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 176-13(3): Awarding Of Iqaluit Fuel Resupply Contract

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Public Works and Services. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I referred to this subject in my Member's statement. Has the Minister awarded a contract recently for the Iqaluit fuel resupply?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 176-13(3): Awarding Of Iqaluit Fuel, Resupply Contract

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Speaker, the information I have on that is that the awarding of that contract is in its final stages. The letter of intent to award the contract has gone to the company.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 177-13(3): GNWT Position Regarding Article 24 Of NFA

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is about the statement made by the Minister of Public Works, Mr. Arlooktoo, about the new GNWT policy to comply with

article 24 of the new land claims agreement. As I understand it, a 10 per cent BIP adjustment through the business incentive policy was necessary for the GNWT to comply with article 24. Could the Minister explain why there was no BIP adjustment referred to in his announcement this afternoon? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 177-13(3): GNWT Position Regarding Article 24 Of NFA

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, just by way of background, the Government of the Northwest Territories, through its present business incentive policy, already offers bid adjustments to northern contractors in the range of 10 to 15 per cent. What NTI was asking for was a further bid adjustment of 10 per cent on top of what we already offer. What article 24 requires is that the GNWT establish bid criteria for awarding contracts that consider the use of Inuit content. There is no requirement for any additional bid discount, aside from BIP and article 24.

We have studied very carefully the question of any additional bid adjustment and what real impact or difference it would have. We have decided on a minimum content approach for several reasons, Mr. Speaker. The minimum content approach guarantees Inuit content whereas the bid adjustment does not. The fact that a minimum content approach will be mandatory means the content must be promised and achieved. Contracts who do not comply with it, will be charged with damages. The bottom line is we were looking for real results in Inuit employment participation.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Before I continue, I would like to recognize some grade 8 students in the gallery. They are exchange students from both Yellowknife and Rankin Inlet. The school in Rankin Inlet is Maani Ulujuk School. The Yellowknife school is Weledeh. I think the teacher for Rankin is Margo. Welcome to the Assembly.

--- Applause

Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 177-13(3): GNWT  
Position Regarding Article 24 Of NFA

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Qujannamiik, Uqaqtii. Does the Minister of Public Works believe that this new policy will result in more Inuit companies and more Inuit employees involved with GNWT capital projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 177-13(3): GNWT  
Position Regarding Article 24 Of NFA

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes. In fact, in working on the policy, we tried to make sure whatever policy we came up with, that was the goal; that more Inuit businesses will pop up, so to speak, more will have Inuit employees and more of them will win government contracts.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 178-13(3): Sulphur Dioxide Emissions From  
Giant Mine

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Renewable Resources, concerning his speech on the local sulphur dioxide air pollution reductions. The Minister indicated that the draft gold roaster discharge control regulations will enforce harmful effects caused by emissions of sulphur dioxide. The Minister indicated that within 10 years, sulphur dioxide emissions from the Giant roaster would have to be reduced by 90 per cent. Does this mean that Giant is presently emitting sulphur dioxide nine times over the limit?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 178-13(3): Sulphur Dioxide  
Emissions From Giant Mine

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a difference in operation between Giant and practically every other mining operation in North America. It is probably the only one or one of the very few that still uses a rather antiquated method of mining gold. It has been suggested that economically we are required to keep Giant operating since that is the present mode of operation, but it is also suggested that it is the responsibility of us as a government to create some indication that the present mode of operation cannot continue indefinitely. At some time, Giant has to look to modernizing its equipment and moving to a method of extracting gold from the ore in a more economic way that provides for less pollution to the environment. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 178-13(3): Sulphur  
Dioxide Emissions From Giant Mine

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for his information. However, he didn't answer my question. The statement he had previously made said that in 1994, territorial air quality guidelines established levels of sulphur dioxide that should not be exceeded, in order to prevent environmental and human health problems. If Giant has to reduce their sulphur dioxide emissions by 90 per cent, I am asking if this means they are presently nine times over the level.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 178-13(3): Sulphur  
Dioxide Emissions From Giant Mine

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I was trying to suggest that the Member could draw his own conclusions. I am not able to provide a technical response to the Member's question. I don't want to do a disservice to the mining company. It is important to use words in a proper phrase because we are dealing with an existing business. However, it is true that there is local concern about the high rate of release of certain pollutants from that particular mine. So we can say in general terms that we think it can be reduced by a very high percentage; 90 per cent is the figure we are

using. We think within a reasonable time frame, Giant should be expected to upgrade and replace its antiquated equipment so that the rate of pollution -- if I can call it that -- is not continuing indefinitely in the future.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 178-13(3): Sulphur Dioxide Emissions From Giant Mine

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Considering the fact that we're talking about environmental and human health problems, and the fact that Giant Mines has a profit of over \$10 million annually, why are they going to be allowed 10 years to reduce their emissions?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 178-13(3): Sulphur Dioxide Emissions From Giant Mine

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, at present, as far as I know, there is no particular law, either federal or territorial, that requires Giant to change the mode of operation. These guidelines and regulations that we are introducing are the initial moves that we're making to address a problem of pollution with Giant Mines. We are trying to take a reasonable approach to an existing business that is providing a great deal of income and jobs to the city of Yellowknife. We are taking what we think is a reasonable approach to address a problem. To do anything more dramatic would do a disservice to the community and to the industry. We believe we're taking a proper approach in the way we're approaching the issue. Thank you.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 179-13(3): Transfer Of Occupational Health And Safety To WCB

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board with regard to the transfer of occupational health and safety to the WCB. I wonder if the Minister can provide his assurance and tell us what assurances we have that the inspectors will be able to impose penalties to shut down job sites and, if necessary, mine sites, without political interference.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 179-13(3): Transfer Of Occupational Health And Safety To WCB

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Speaker, political interference ... I want to assure my honourable colleague that the WCB and the recent transfer with respect to occupational health and safety will function as it always has; independent of political interference.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you.

Supplementary To Question Occupational Health And Safety To WCB

Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

179-13(3):Transfer Of

**MR. OOTES:**

If the inspectors levy penalties ... I'm after information, Mr. Speaker. If the inspectors levy penalties for infractions under the various acts, who gets the revenues from those penalties? Does the territorial government get the revenues or the Workers' Compensation Board?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure on that issue so I'll take the question as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 180-13(3): Gross Expenditure Base For Future Funding Formulas

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance, in his role as chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Division. With the decrease by the federal government to our base of approximately \$100 million, does the Minister know what gross expenditure base the federal government will use to determine the two new formula agreements?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 180-13(3): Gross Expenditure Base For Future Funding Formulas

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, we're not aware of what the base will be, but I think it's fair

that certainly I am concerned, as my honourable colleague, that there is a slow erosion of our current base. This question is an extremely important one as we move forward in trying to determine an appropriate process for two new formula agreements. It is the number one priority of myself and my colleagues on Cabinet, and I intend to meet with Mr. Martin, the Minister of Finance, I believe on the 14th or 15th of this month to try to get some assurances and to try to determine from what base we're going to negotiate two formulas. As you know, with all the debate that's going on and the cuts that we've had to make, any further erosion to the base will mean fewer services and, of course, fewer benefits to both our employees and to the people at large. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you.

Supplementary To Question 180-13(3): Base For Future Funding Formulas Mr. O'Brien, supplementary. Gross Expenditure

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in reference to division and the formula agreements, if the transition cost of \$117 million is determined to be sufficient, where if any will the shortfall come from?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 180-13(3): Gross Expenditure Base For Future Funding Formulas

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we're all aware of the announcement made earlier this week. Considerable debate has taken place both today and yesterday, and I'm sure the future debate is going to take place, with respect to the transitional and incremental costs. It's my understanding in my discussions and our discussions with Mr. Irwin, the \$150 million for transitional and incremental costs; that's it. There are no additional costs at this time. That was my understanding of it. I suspect what will happen, Mr. Speaker, is that any additional costs required or any shortfall required will have to come out of the formula agreements that we have to arrange with the federal government. That's why this issue of the formula financing agreements for two new territories is of the utmost importance and priority to this government and to this Assembly. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 181-13(3): Minister's Knowledge Of Increase To Education Taxes

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's been a long day. Mr. Speaker, my question is going to be directed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, regarding the increase that we've heard about in the education taxes. We went through a number of months with the business plans. I would like to ask the Minister if he was aware during this time that the education tax was to be increased. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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



Return To Question 181-13(3): Minister's Knowledge Of Increase To Education Taxes

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Financial Management Board, which I am a Member of, must have approved that increase in taxes, so I would have to answer that question in the affirmative. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 181-13(3): Minister's Knowledge Of Increase To Education Taxes

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Minister answered affirmatively, why was the Social Programs committee not notified of this increase that was going to be happening? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 181-13(3): Minister's Knowledge Of Increase To Education Taxes

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Mr. Speaker, the Social committee was reviewing the business plan of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Since those revenues do not show up in that business plan, it wouldn't be something that would automatically come up for discussion. Education taxes collected outside of the city of Yellowknife are directed to general revenues for this government and not specifically to education programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 181-13(3): Minister's Knowledge Of Increase To Education Taxes

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the business plans, we know that it doesn't go directly to Education, but it would definitely have been, I would think, an area where the Minister would notify the committee that such an increase was going to happen. Was there

any intention to notify the committee at any point during this time? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 181-13(3): Minister's Knowledge Of Increase To Education Taxes

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can take the Member's comment as advice for the future; but since, as I said, we were talking about our business plan and nowhere in our business plan does anything related to that tax show up, I didn't see the need at the time to mention it to the committee. It was not an initiative of the department. However, having said that, I will watch more carefully in the future and try and advise the committee whenever a circumstance may be arising that comes to my knowledge that might affect an area of their interest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 182-13(3): NIC's Reaction To GNWT's Position On Article 24 Of NFA

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Public Works and Services. He informed the House today that there have been some productive discussions with NTI regarding article 24. Are these discussions final? Has NTI agreed with the proposals that are recommended by the Minister?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 182-13(3): NIC's Reaction To GNWT's Position On Article 24 Of NFA

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, when I spoke to the president of NTI yesterday, he did not give me his official position or his reaction on how he felt about this. As far as we're concerned, we have met and, in other cases, exceeded our obligations with article 24. We are required to consult with NTI, which we have done. I think we've done what we should have.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 183-13(3): Claimant Preference Positions In Land Claims Other Than NFA

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Public Works regarding the announcement he made today in the House about article 24 of the Nunavut agreement. Has the Minister and his department also looked at other arrangements in other land claims agreements, such as the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Sahtu, with regard to economic chapters and also other chapters in the agreement, and will you be making a similar announcement in this House on the articles in the other land claims agreements?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Deputy Premier, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 183-13(3): Claimant Preference Positions In Land Claims Other Than NFA

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, yes, we have looked into our obligations under the Gwich'in comprehensive land agreement, the Inuvialuit and the Sahtu Dene/Metis comprehensive land agreement. There are specific obligations under those claims which are not the same as the ones under the Nunavut final agreement. We are living up to the obligations under those agreements. If the Member wishes, I can provide the Member with information on it.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Krutko, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 183-13(3): Claimant Preference Positions In Land Claims Other Than NFA

**MR. KRUTKO:**

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that there are obligations in the agreement which may not be similar to

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article 24 of the Nunavut agreement, but there are commitments that the government has to the other land claims agreements. Will you be tabling something in this House to the effect of what those

are, because I do believe there are some disputes with some of the articles at this time between your department and the aboriginal organizations?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 183-13(3): Claimant Preference Positions In Land Claims Other Than NFA

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I will be working with the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, along with Cabinet, to work with aboriginal groups to look at these issues and other options. We will keep the Member informed.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, replies to Budget Address. Mr. Picco.

Thank you. Question period is over. Item 7

**ITEM 10: REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS**

Mr. Picco's Reply

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Todd began the Budget Address by saying that this was not business-as-usual budget as these were not usual times. But, Mr. Speaker, these could be the best of times or the worst of times; it wouldn't matter. As most governments across Canada and every provincial, federal and territorial jurisdiction knows, we now have to pay for the largesse of governments of the past.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT is no different. I do not come here today to vilify or, for that matter, criticize the way Mr. Todd has handled his first budget. Some of the media have painted his budget as a business budget. I disagree. This budget is a budget that is trying to deal with, as I said earlier, the largesse of the past. Our fiscal situation is also compounded by a low revenue-generation level and by continuing federal transfer cuts. With the highest birthrate and the highest unemployment rates in the country, the jurisdiction of the GNWT has some major problems to deal with. When we combine this with the division of the Territories on April 1, 1999, a casual observer can see that these are not ordinary times.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Hear! Hear!

**MR. PICCO:**

However, this government, through the new committee structure, has sought to open the decision-making process to include all 24 MLAs and I have been very pleased to have been part of this process.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Hear! Hear!

**MR. PICCO:**

But, Mr. Speaker, with 24 Members you will have varying opinions in Caucus and in the House. I also agreed that we could balance the budget in one year, but I also realize that this might have meant more Draconian measures that this government would have had to take.

Mr. Todd says he will have a balanced budget in 1997-98, but we still can, over the next 18 months, continue to look for efficiency in our spending to help reach that target. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Todd's budget was bursting at the seams with optimism. That is a laudable way of approaching a deficit, Mr. Speaker; an accumulated deficit of stratospheric proportions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Ohh!

**MR. PICCO:**

At times, the announced plan of this government has seemed to be a case of penny wise and dollar dumb, but it cannot be said that this government has not tried to live up to the realities of this fiscal time. Efficiency, Mr. Speaker, efficiency.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Hear! Hear!

**MR. PICCO:**

The way this government spends the taxpayers' dollars has been reviewed. Many of the cuts and downsizing that we will see and have seen could be eliminated if we strove for better spending practices. Accountability, Mr. Speaker, accountability of the negotiated contracts and sole-source contracts that this government gets involved in must be made

clearer. When the facts are on the table and this government nears the high-water mark of transparency, then and only then will we be able to properly debate the current schemes and solutions that this government presents in this budget.

Public government is accountable to the public, and they will judge the Todd budget and the measures taken by Cabinet and the 15 ordinary Members. I have no problem with this. Mr. Speaker, in my campaign, I said that I would speak out against knee-jerk reactions to our fiscal situation, and I think that this sentiment was carried on through the whole budget process. But, Mr. Speaker, I still think we could have done more to bring down the accumulated deficit. Mr. Todd's address has forecasted an accumulated deficit of \$85 million by the end of this fiscal year. This is unacceptable to many of the Members and is unacceptable to me.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Hear! Hear!

**MR. PICCO:**

I do not want to see us go into division with a \$100 million -- Mr. Speaker, \$100 million -- \$100 million accumulated deficit. That is not why I was elected.

--- Interjection

**MR. PICCO:**

I will start over if you would like me to, Mr. Miltenberger. That is why I said earlier that we could have done more, and that is why I spoke out against the appropriation that was before this House last month. We could have taken more out of the capital budget, Mr. Speaker, but there wasn't the political will to do so. If we do not take the accumulated deficit down by the end of next year, Mr. Speaker, there will be no -- and I will say it again; there will be no -- political will in the year 1998-99 going into an election. That's what we're facing, Mr. Speaker.

I honestly thought, and still do, that we could have cut more out of the capital budget. We could have increased the surtax on incomes over \$100,000, as stated by Alternatives

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North. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Todd gave some good examples on how the GNWT will try and generate extra revenue by working closer with the private

sector, but we must increase the efficiency of this government. That has to be the first priority. We do not have any more Commissioner's balls and we no longer take junkets all over the globe. These are different times for the GNWT. We have to base the capital needs of our communities on needs and not wants. Every community doesn't need a Zamboni machine, Mr. Speaker, in an arena. As one of the honourable Members said, we have shovels, maybe we can do some make-work projects.

We have to get more bang for our buck, Mr. Speaker. It is no good if this government increases this revenue by 15 or 20 per cent but continues to spend 30 or 40 per cent more than we take in. I'm glad Mr. Todd stayed to hear what I was saying. This will mean doing government differently, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Picco, just to remind the Members again not to mention Members' names who are absent from the House. Thank you.

**MR. PICCO:**

I apologize. Mr. Speaker, we have to get more bang for our buck. Mr. Speaker, it is no good if this government increases its revenue by 15 or 20 per cent but continues to spend 30 or 40 per cent more than we take. This will mean doing government differently and I had hoped that this would have come up in the Budget Address. We will also have to look at the total expenditures of this government for cost-effective spending for the results we expect. Our senior employees have been through the days of largesse but, Mr. Speaker, they will also have to change their mindset as these are different times.

Mr. Speaker, the announcement by Mr. Todd about community wellness and community empowerment was well taken. But using the community empowerment example, I hope that we do not dump programs and responsibilities onto communities and then withdraw our monetary commitments because we are being cut fiscally.

Mr. Speaker, I also have some concerns with the announced Mortgage Investment Corporation. After having time to speak to commercial lenders in the residential markets, I feel that the MIC may not be justified and I will be looking for more detail from the Minister.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Excuse me, Mr. Picco. Mr. Henry, your point of order.

Point Of Order

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we do not have sufficient Members in the House.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Yellowknife South recognized that we don't have a quorum. Mr. Clerk, would you ring the bell.

--- Ringing of bells

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Picco, continue your reply.

**MR. PICCO:**

Can I start from the beginning again?

--- Interjection

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my fellow colleagues for giving me the opportunity today to make a reply to the Budget Address, as it was on the order paper. I'm sure with all the media present, they have taken notice,

Mr. Speaker, the announcements by Mr. Todd about community wellness and community empowerment were well taken. But using the community empowerment example, I hope that we do not dump programs and responsibilities onto communities and then withdraw our monetary commitments because we are being cut fiscally.

Mr. Speaker, I also have some concerns with the announced Mortgage Investment Corporation. After having time to speak to commercial lenders in the residential markets, I feel that the MIC may not be justified and I will be looking for more detail from the Minister.

Mr. Speaker, the Todd budget will go down in history as his first budget, but it will also be remembered as a budget that tried to change the spending habits of the GNWT; not an easy task. Mr. Speaker, I supported Mr. Todd for Cabinet because I thought he was the best person to fill the Finance portfolio. Mr. Speaker, unbelievable as it sounds, after I've seen the

questions that I've asked the Minister over the past X number of months, I still believe this. However, I will continue to offer Mr. Todd and my fellow colleagues in Cabinet prodding to continue to cut our spending by looking for increased efficiency and not just motherhood statements and flowery words as I have heard over the past few weeks.

The people of the NWT deserve no less and will remember these things when the elected Members seek re-election, and justifiably so, Mr. Speaker. I would like to pass on to my fellow colleagues in Cabinet and Mr. Todd a short statement: A goal without a number is just a slogan. And, Mr. Speaker, the people of the NWT deserve more than a slogan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Item 10, replies to Budget Address. Just to remind the Members that you still have four more days to reply to the Budget Address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Picco.

**ITEM 13:REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS**

Report On Bill 8

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that Standing Committee on Infrastructure has reviewed Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, and wishes to report that Bill 8 is now ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. 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; and, 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. The committee will come to order. When we concluded yesterday, we were considering Bill 11, Appropriation Act, 1996-97; particularly, Education, Culture and Employment. What is the wish of the committee, do we continue? Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to suggest, after a short break, we continue with the business we were attending to yesterday.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Do we have the concurrence of the committee?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Bill 11: Appropriation Act, 1996-97

Department Of Education, Culture And Employment

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

We will take a 1 5-minute break, then resume with Bill 11. Thank you.

--- SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The committee will come back to order. Before we resume with Bill 11, Appropriation Act, 1996-97, I would like to ask the Minister if he wishes to bring in the witnesses.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, please.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please bring in the witnesses.

--- Interjection

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Oh, yes. Thank you. I forgot, sorry about that. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. For the record, I would like to ask the Minister to introduce the witnesses.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on my left, I have the acting deputy minister of the department, Mr. Eric Colbourne; and, on my right, the director of finance and administration, Mr. Paul Devitt.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. We left off with general comments from the floor. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Enuaraq.

General Comments

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a former teacher, I am pleased to participate in the detailed review of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. I am sure that most honourable Members will agree that education should be our first priority. With Nunavut soon upon us, we are counting on education and training to prepare as many people as possible for the new job opportunities which will be created. As the Minister knows, I have some specific concerns about elders; whether the territorial senior citizens' supplement could be reviewed for increase. I am very concerned about the difficult circumstances of our elders in coping with the very high cost of living in our very small, remote communities. The elders are very important, respected citizens. They are the anchors

for our society. I will deal with those concerns when we get to the activity of culture and careers.

However, in general, I wish to express my concern that in my region, and throughout Nunavut, the first priority in education must be to prepare our people for the new jobs which will result from Nunavut. I am pleased to learn that some \$40 million will be spent by the federal government on training for Nunavut. Also, I am pleased that Mr. Irwin has said that training is a priority in the funding for Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, we have an Arctic College system in place in Nunavut. In most of our communities, there are community learning centres in place. I am pleased with the new facility

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in place in Pangnirtung. As the Minister knows, I am anxious to work with the Minister and the community education council in Clyde River to make sure that the new community learning centre now being planned for Clyde River is the right size to meet the needs of that community. This is nothing new to the Minister, by the way, Mr. Chairman.

Also, I am very hopeful that the community can be fully involved in the planning. If that means that we must take a little more time, then it will be worth it to get a new learning centre which is right for the needs of the community.

However, Mr. Chairman, the point I wish to make is that I am very hopeful that the \$40 million or so which is available to train for Nunavut can be spent through the Arctic College system which is already in place. We have heard concerns about the possible move of certain college programs from the Baffin region to other regions. One of the programs under consideration for being moved is management training. Mr. Chairman, I am all for management training programs being available in all three Nunavut regions. I believe it will be unfortunate if only one region in Nunavut has this important program located in the region. What I am hoping, Mr. Chairman, is that the money which will be made available for training in Nunavut can flow through the Arctic College. I am also hoping that these new monies will allow us to make more programs like management training available in all three regions.

Obviously there are other programs of equal importance in preparing for Nunavut: teacher training, training social workers, trades, environmental

managers. I would like to ask Mr. Dent whether this money can be administered through this government and the Arctic College system which is now in place. Does the Department of Education have a plan in place for training for Nunavut? Could this Assembly be given details of departments' training plans for Nunavut? Is it possible that Arctic College programs could be enhanced with the new monies available from the federal government? Is it possible that the management training programs which were due to be moved out from the Baffin region could be restored with these new federal monies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. I believe there were three or four questions. Honourable Minister, if you can remember those three or four questions, you have the floor. Thank you.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to hear the Member say that education is his first priority. I share the Member's ranking of priorities in this issue and believe that education must remain our first priority. I think we have a real opportunity that faces us now, that's the number of jobs which will be created with the creation of Nunavut. This will provide some new employment in the Nunavut region. The Member is absolutely correct, we have in place a good part of the infrastructure which is needed to deliver the training with the college campuses in the Nunavut region.

The Member asked if the \$40 million could be administered by the colleges or the department, and I am certainly willing to say that we could administer it. Obviously, with the

infrastructure being in place right now, we, too, hope that the training funds will be funnelled through the college to ensure that we take advantage of the infrastructure that's in place. There will have to be some agreement between all of the parties to allow us to administer those funds, but we're hopeful that we will see that sort of agreement, rather than having a whole new infrastructure being set up to provide the training. The concern is that if that infrastructure has to be recreated by a different body, you spend more money on infrastructure and less of it actually gets into training for residents of Nunavut.

So, yes, we do have a training plan. Can I share it with the House right now? No, because at this point in time it's in draft stage and is just going out for consultation with the beneficiary groups. We need to get some input from them, then, perhaps, make some revisions before the plans are finalized. But the plans will be public as of July 9th, and we can commit that these will be public. I think each department is required to post them in a public place after July 9th. So this will be a very public training program.

The Member also asked if the college plans for training could be enhanced; for instance, management training in Iqaluit. The college has largely depended on third-party funding in order to provide its training programs across the North. So, certainly, if this \$40 million that the Member has referred to can be directed to the college for training programs, it would allow the training to be as broadly based as is possible. I would see no reason why, for instance, if the partners all agreed that management training should be offered in Iqaluit, it could not be offered there with third-party funding. I think that responds to all the Member's direct questions.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Enuaraq.

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment for being able to answer my questions. My last question was is it possible that the management training program which was due to be moved out of the Baffin region could be restored with these new federal monies. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Sorry, I didn't hear your question, but if the Minister wants to respond.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was trying to indicate to the Member that what has to happen is

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an agreement of the partners involved as to how that money would be spent. I did indicate that that is certainly one possibility, that the program could also be offered in Iqaluit.

The first year of the base-funded program is scheduled to move to Rankin Inlet, but that does not mean that the program could not be offered in both Rankin and Iqaluit if the funds are available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Enuaraq.

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any further comments but, once again, I would like to thank the Minister. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is similar to what my colleague stated regarding management training. My question to the Minister is with regard to the program dollars we do have, especially in light of the dismal rate we have in the West when it comes to aboriginal managers within the government. When it comes to affirmative action, we are lacking in the percentages. Are there any possible resources within this budget to allow the other aboriginal groups to have a similar opportunity to what is presently being negotiated with the Inuit from the East and also the federal government, through their comprehensive claim agreement? Are those resources in the departmental budget for other groups to have a similar opportunity to establish management training programs for the other aboriginal groups in the Northwest Territories, especially in the West?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Honourable Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the \$40 million to which Mr. Enuaraq was referring is not within the department's budget. I think the resources that are being provided to the colleges, both east and west, are being utilized as efficiently as possible to provide as much of the training as possible across the North.

The difficulty we face, given the reduction in financial targets this year, is that both colleges, east and west,

in their base funding, are taking a significant decrease. It presents a challenge to both college boards for them to manage that. I think one of the results will be that both boards will be extremely aggressive in seeking out third-party funding.

The Member will probably be aware that there has been a change, for instance, in how Pathways funding is being channelled from the federal government to aboriginal groups this year. I would say the college would certainly welcome a creative partnership with an aboriginal group in the West to put a program together to offer management training where it is most needed. I would hope that we could see some of those partnerships develop. The colleges are prepared to work with any agency that has funds to purchase training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the present time, the Department of Education, through Arctic College, does administer a management program, don't they?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Minister of Education.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, I'm not absolutely positive that the western college does offer that program. I believe they do, but I would have to quickly whip through a fair-sized book in order to ascertain for sure that it is offered. I don't have a calendar for the college in front of me at the moment to check it out and advise the Member.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

While you're looking for the answer, the point I'm trying to make is that I'd like to get some assurance from the Minister that there will be serious consideration given to affirmative action candidates and the shortage of aboriginal managers that we have within this government and in other areas. We should seriously consider that we also have the opportunity that is presently being offered to the East for division;



and, being able to meet the goal of 50 per cent Inuit within the government bureaucracy by 1999. That we also have the same opportunity in the West to meet the goals that the previous government has tried to accomplish with dismal results. We should somehow keep considering this as a priority and that we do make an attempt to have affirmative action candidates. When it comes to aboriginal people in the West, they should have the opportunity to become managers within this government; not just be service people but also look at the management end. When it comes to a deputy minister and the senior level of the bureaucracy, that we do have a percentage of aboriginal people within those levels of government.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Having found an Aurora College calendar, I can now confirm that in the West we offer three management studies courses: management studies; the community administration certificate course; and, the first two years of a bachelor of administration program.

On the Member's question with regard to training, each department is responsible for ensuring that it lives up to this government's commitment to affirmative action. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment provides training for departments of this government, usually through Arctic College. We would certainly be willing, if departments are prepared to provide the seat purchase to ensure that the training is done through the colleges, as the Member suggests. The difficulty we have is that ... I shouldn't say the difficulty we have ... Let me rephrase that, Mr. Chairman. At the moment, the Member is referring to a \$40 million training commitment made by the federal government for Nunavut. At this point in time, I don't know how that \$40 million is going to be spent. All of it may be funnelled through the colleges or none of it may be. At this point in time, we are hoping that we will come to an agreement with the partners and that it will be funnelled through the college. We believe

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that is the way to have the greatest number of people trained.

We don't have a similar pot of money offered to the West, at this point in time. It becomes problematic for me to ... I can't commit, whether it's East or West, that the college is going to provide the training. We are hopeful in the East that we will be able to take advantage of those funds. In the West, at the present time, we don't even have an offer of similar funds so I don't even have anybody with whom to negotiate to try and get the money into the system for training. I recognize the Member's concern and I think that, given the funds, we will do the job do the best of our ability. The problem is one of getting a commitment for the funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

You touched on the issue of departments having funds in their budgets for training individuals. The problem I have with that is that we go through a process of interviewing people and then hiring people with high potential, especially from southern Canada, who have gone to universities. It seems like a lot of money is spent in the area of educating these people after we have hired them with, supposedly, experience to do these jobs. It seems like a lot of resources are spent on training individuals -- a lot of whom come from southern Canada to fill these positions with this government -- we're having to pay them a large wage and on top of that, train them. Sometimes it boggles my mind. Who are these training programs for? The managers or the individuals that work underneath them? I've heard from several of my constituents, who work within the bureaucracy of this government, who have a real concern about that; that they do not have the opportunity, as aboriginals, yet, a lot of these dollars are spent on training southern-hired individuals who acquire a job with the Government of the Northwest Territories because of their so called high qualifications earned at southern institutions. However, when they come to northern Canada, we have to educate them because of where we live and how these programs are delivered.

We should seriously look at how that program is being administered by those departments and figure out if we are getting the best bang for our buck when it comes to the Department of Education; and who is really benefiting from these programs. My view is that we should seriously look at where those dollars can be best spent and who exactly the long-term benefit is

for: an individual or the Northwest Territories? A lot of these individuals may not live here for the rest of their lives. But for aboriginal people, where do we go? This is home. This is where we will probably live and die. That's something that has to be considered with regard to how you deliver these programs, especially in the management area.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. On the list, we still have Mr. Evaloarjuk and Mr. Steen. Mr. Minister, I heard no question from Mr. Krutko. That was a point that you were making, right? Was there a question?

**MR. KRUTKO:**

(Microphone turned off) ... they do have statistics with regard to who these departments have sent to these management programs and exactly how many of these people are senior people within the bureaucracy versus the people who are trying to work their way up the ladder to eventually manage these programs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Minister, do you want to respond?

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated, it's not the choice of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment who is selected for training by each department. That is something that each department is responsible for. Education, Culture and Employment only delivers the course. It's not up to me, as the Minister, to say that so and so should get the course or so and so shouldn't get the course. The colleges just provide the course to the people for whom it is requested by the departments. It might be interesting for the Member, though, to know that in one course that's offered, the management training program -- which is a public service career training program and a full-time trainee program -- we have gone from, in 1990-91, 96 per cent of the participants being aboriginal trainees to, in 1995-96, 100 per cent of the students being aboriginal trainees. These are already government employees who are being provided with training in order to assist them, usually, to achieve management or officer positions within the government.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. According to our rules, any Member can speak at any one time, however, the allotted time is 10 minutes. I believe the 10 minutes is up for ... I will recognize the other Members. This is not to say that we're trying to take the freedom of expression or opinion from Members, but this is to allow other Members who have not spoken to speak. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to ask if we have a quorum here. That's the first question I would like to ask, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

(Translation) Right now, we do not have a quorum. I will ask the Clerk to ring the bells.

--- Ringing of bells

Thank you. We have a quorum now, Mr. Evaloarjuk. Thank you.

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am in full support of training and education. I am being able to speak on education right now and I'm thankful for that. I do have a vision of where we are going today. I feel that there are more people every year who are taking education and training, while funding is getting cut back. Also, the people who are training to become teachers have a problem right now. I know you don't look after housing, but I'm sure you support this as well. For those people who are taking teacher training, they have staff housing, but it is very difficult right now. The salary they receive while they're in training is not really looked at. The prices of the houses are fixed, but they have no ceiling. For example, for a person who is making \$2,000 a month and his house costs

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\$1,800, it's impossible to live on \$200 per month. For that matter, it is very difficult to try to become a teacher. I feel there should be other means because it is very difficult. They are learning but they're not living comfortably.

In Alberta, for example, they have legislation in place and we do follow the Alberta system. Even if an individual has less than a grade 12 education, they can start training. You learn as you live and I feel that

this should be looked after. I would like to know why we have the system that they use in Alberta in the education system, especially for the people here in the more northern communities, because we do have a different culture.

I feel that this is not proper. As I stated before, it is getting very difficult for people who would like to become teachers. This is my concern. This is all, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

(Translation) Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the Member was asking about support for people who are training to become teachers. I guess I would say that the support we provide to all students, whether they're learning to be social workers or teachers or any other occupation, is the same standard of support according to our program standards.

The Member referred to us using Alberta standards. Again, I'm not sure, but I suspect the Member is asking about using the Alberta curriculum. One of the things we do use, especially in high school, is the Alberta grade 12 departmental exams in order to provide some indication of comparability in terms of how our students are doing. Being a very small jurisdiction, it would be very expensive for us to set up our own system for exams.

I guess I should point out that, in recognition of the fact that we do have significantly different cultures in the Northwest Territories, the department has developed an Inuktitut curriculum, called Inuuqatigiit, which is available for K to 9 right now, and is being developed for all the way through to grade 12. That should be available all across Nunavut fairly soon.

I believe the Member asked whether or not we could provide assistance to people who wanted to become teachers who do not have grade 12. In fact, most of our teacher education programs do have an access year before the actual teacher education program. So we do have access programs available to help people upgrade their skills so they are prepared to get into a teacher education program. Those are all the questions I remember, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

(Translation) Thank you. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) One more supplementary question. For the future, do you foresee, after Nunavut is implemented, how many aboriginal teachers there will be? I know there are more teachers up here who came from the South. Do you see that the Inuit or aboriginal people will be higher in numbers in the future?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has, for a number of years now, had the stated goal of achieving a 50 per cent ratio aboriginal teachers in the Northwest Territories, that's both East and West. In the East right now, I believe we are at approximately 44 per cent. It would appear that we would exceed 50 per cent by the year 1999-2000, and be well on our way to achieving a representative workforce within the time frames envisioned according to what the signatories to the NFA have agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. Mr. Steen, you have the floor.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm quite pleased with the programs that the government has come out with, with regard to colleges and training for adults. I'm also quite impressed with the department's make-work programs, where social dollars are turned into training dollars. I would also support further activities in this area. I think there is lots more room for expansion in this particular area. The people in my region would prefer to work on training programs and, at the same time, construct some forms of infrastructure that are needed, through the colleges, rather than take social dollars. I think the department should look at further expansion of Arctic College in Inuvik that would basically work towards addressing this request from the people.

I also have questions regarding the \$40 million that has been announced by the feds for the Nunavut territory for training purposes. I note that this government has identified \$44 million this year in this budget for Nunavut land claim implementation. I

presume this is the same program. Maybe I could get some clarification from the Minister on that point.

The other point I have is I presume that our colleges are operating just about on maximum at this point in time. I'm beginning to wonder where we could possibly accommodate the federal government to implement \$40 million worth of further training in the Nunavut area. Do we have the facilities? If we have already filled up all of Arctic College with our programs, how can we expend this different money to be able to address this training requirement before 1999? I don't know if the Minister is prepared to answer that at this point in time.

I guess the real question is is there room to accommodate the feds if, in fact, the \$40 million that they're talking about is different than the training programs we already have in preparation for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the Member was initially talking about the program Investing in People when he was talking about training programs that he thought were quite effective in his region. The Investing in People and northern skills development program were jointly funded by the Northwest Territories and the federal government, to the tune of \$8 million. It was a

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two-year project. The federal government only committed to two years, and that program is sunsetted and they have not indicated that they will continue with sharing the funding on it. So recognizing how important those programs are and how successful they've been, one of the initiatives we have included in our budget is some funding to keep that type of program going. Unfortunately, because we don't have the cost sharing with the federal government anymore, we have \$2 million in this budget and that's all there is going to it in the next year. So there will be a serious impact on the amount of training, compared to what has happened in the past two years, that we will be able to provide this coming year. In the next fiscal year, it will mean almost a reduction by two-thirds in the amount of

training over what we had been providing in the communities throughout the Northwest Territories.

The Member also suggested that we expand in the Inuvik region to handle more of those programs. If we had the money for the training, we could certainly take a look at doing that. It becomes a bit of a problem if we don't have the money to deliver the training.

The Member asked whether the \$40 million we've been talking about this afternoon is the same as the \$44 million that you see in your budget. The answer is no, it's not. In saying \$40 million --the amount that Mr. Enuaraq referred to and that I've been talking about -- we've been rounding off a number which was actually \$39.8 million, which was part of the \$150 million that Mr. Irwin announced is available in incremental funding for the creation of Nunavut. That's not the same as the \$44 million the Member asked about. I think we need to remember that that \$39.8 million is spread over four years. That means we're not even talking about \$10 million a year.

Can we handle the training? Yes, we can. The amount of third-party work the college has undertaken to now has prepared the colleges to pick up whenever there is extra money available for training. As I have indicated, we are going to see a significant reduction in the amount of money that we have available for training across the Territories because of the sunseting of the program we were involved in, called Investing in People.

In the last fiscal year, for instance, we spent, between the federal contribution and the GNWT contribution, \$6 million in training. The federal government purchased an additional \$2 million in training. On top of that, Pathways funding was used to purchase training through the colleges. That \$6 million has disappeared. We've managed to replace it with \$2 million. The \$2.3 million that Human Resources Development Canada was previously spending per year in the Northwest Territories has just disappeared; there's nothing to replace it. Yes, Mr. Chairman, we can certainly put that money to work and we are prepared to deliver the training right away. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Mr. Chairman, could the Minister give us a brief explanation as to what this Nunavut land claim implementation money is?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be difficult for me, in particular, to answer what it is. This is money that has been announced by the federal government as being available for incremental funding. At this point in time, I don't know how those funds are going to be handled. There will have to be \$39.8 million. We don't know ... I get from the Member's signals that he's referring to the \$44 million. Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, I could ask for clarification? Is that \$44 million the Member refers to in the Department of Education, Culture and Employment budget?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Mr. Chairman, I'm referring to the money identified on page 14-32. It's referring to Nunavut land claim implementation money. My question is how much of that \$44 million is education money, if any?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. We will be getting into details. We are still in general comments but I will allow the question to stand. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$44 million that the Member is referring to on page 14-32 is \$44,000, not \$44 million. This is vote 4/5, which means that this money is provided by the federal government.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this government has talked much about keeping jobs in the Territories. In particular, I know there were concerns raised about the BHP project and numerous other projects in the Territories. Concerns were raised

about the fly-in/fly-out operations. With regard to the Department of Education, Yellowknife has been identified by BHP as their main hiring point. With the high utilization rate, right now, of the schools in Yellowknife, what is the department doing to make sure that there are facilities planned and in place to attract employees to locate and become residents in the Territories; paying taxes here? What is the department doing to ensure that there are schools of sufficient size to accommodate, hopefully, the potential growth?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, at the present time, we're not sure that there is a lack of space in the schools in Yellowknife. We are proposing that a collaborative process take place, which would involve the two Yellowknife school boards, the French parents ... the conseil scolaire for Yellowknife, as well as the residents of Ndilo, in a process to map out what is needed in terms of capital development in Yellowknife. The situation is such that we believe that there's only about an 80 per cent usage overall of the facilities in Yellowknife, which does leave some room for expansion in the population; probably as fast as housing could expand in the town easily. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

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**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has mentioned a utilization rate in Yellowknife of 80 per cent. That certainly is one way to look at it. I believe the Minister is arriving at the figure by taking into account the number of seats that have been vacated from the old St. Pat's High School. We also have portables which are presently being used to house students. If these portables and the old high school were removed, I believe the utilization rate is 92 per cent. I realize that we are living in a different economic climate than we have been used to over the last decade, and I realize that we will all have to do with less. At the same time, I believe that the previous government had accepted the fact that the old St. Patrick High School did need to be replaced and,

consequently, took action and funded a new school. Has the Minister had any requests for at least funds to retrofit this particular structure so it could fit into what the Minister considers 80 per cent occupancy?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The honourable Minister for Education.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, as was noted in the standing committee's response to the department's business plan, we have changed our approach in how the school spaces are funded and how we provide space in schools for communities. The new policy is that for one student there is one space. The Member appears to be absolutely right: that if you take out the old St. Patrick High School, the level of utilization would approach 92 per cent. That still leaves 322 seats available, which is a fair number of seats for an influx. As I said, we can deal with an influx if that is what happens. I don't know that we would necessarily build for dramatic growth without knowing that it was going to happen.

The Member asked about renovations for the old St. Patrick High School. That will be one of the considerations of the group that we are proposing to put together in terms of how capital dollars will be spent in Yellowknife in the next few years. We have a limited number of capital dollars available. We want the community to know what those dollars are and let the community and the elected officials in the community determine how those capital dollars should be spent.

Over the course of six years, it is \$16 million or \$17 million that we have identified in the five-year plan. The question is how that should be spent. I can't say that the money is going to go one place or another. As I noted in my opening comments, there has been a reduction in the capital plan throughout the department of \$10 million this year alone. Over the course of the next three years, we are going to have \$30 million less than what we had when the last five year plan was published. That means there are going to be significant impacts in all communities as to the timing of what was seen in the previous five-year plan. The previous five-year plan is no longer what we are working from. I can't make the commitment the Member seeks. What I am hoping is that the school boards and the community will get together and determine how they would like to see the limited

capital dollars we have spent in a collaborative process over the next few years.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would ask the Minister to correct me where my assumptions are not accurate. I believe that as part of the agreement for Yellowknife Education District No. 1 to assume responsibilities for Sir John Franklin, there was a commitment made by the previous government to provide funds to upgrade the facilities there. First of all, is my assumption correct?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was no firm commitment made to that. It wasn't part of the deal that was signed off. I believe there was an understanding and an undertaking by the department that in the future, the facility would need to be renovated. It was in the previous five-year plan that I referred to and there was definitely an indication that funds would be made available. I don't know that we have said they aren't available; but given the magnitude of the change in what is available for the whole community and the need for us to take a look at how capital dollars are now being spent, it may be in the best interests of the community to reconsider all the options. The timing for the delivery of those funds is significantly delayed, if that remains one of the priorities of the board.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that follows into the next question. Why are we retrofitting other schools within the Territories which have a much lower occupancy rate and are several years younger than some of the schools in my community? Some of the schools that are getting a retrofit even have a declining population.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The Minister of Education.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, I am not sure which specific school the Member is referring to but, typically in the capital plan, the priorities were set with those projects which were under way, the planning was substantially complete or in the case of a project where a negotiated contract had been approved by the previous government, for instance, those ones carried on. Major construction projects which were under way were carried on. Then the first priority changed to become ... Let me go back to budgeting priorities. The first priority was to complete multi-year projects which were under way and then we went through a ranking of new capital projects. To rank a new capital project, the priorities were first for life, health and safety concerns; the second ranking came to those with space shortfalls; third was for those with program deficiencies; fourth for space upgrades; and, fifth, for building technical upgrades.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be interested in a copy of that. Presently, the community of Yellowknife pays 25 per cent of the cost of education for the schools in Yellowknife. Other communities are paying an average of 2.5 per cent. What plans does the department have to bring other communities up to the level that Yellowknife is presently paying?

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, taxation is always a complex issue. There has been, in the past, a study of property taxation and consideration of other alternatives for raising taxes in communities in the North. I have discussed with the Minister of Finance the situation where Yellowknife is treated significantly differently than other communities. It is something that working with the Minister of Finance and other Members of this House, we are going to have to take a look at over the next few years to ensure that people are satisfied that there is fairness and equity in

the system. I don't have a short answer for the Member because it isn't the department's responsibility to raise taxes. That would be an overall government initiative, but the issue has been raised and is one we are going to have to look at over the next few years.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Barnabas.

**MR. BARNABAS:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends) (Microphone turned off) ... in previous years. Will a portion of the \$40 million be used for creating Inuktitut curriculums?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Minister, do you need clarification or are you going to attempt this?

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to Mr. Barnabas, I believe he is referring to the \$39.8 million the federal government is offering over four years for training. My understanding is that those funds are available for training people to work in the bureaucracy of Nunavut. In terms of creating a curriculum, the department has already developed a curriculum called Inuuqatigiit, which is complete for kindergarten to grade 9 and in the process of being implemented for grades 10 to 12. That is something that is completely separate from the training fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

**MR. BARNABAS:**

(Translation) That's it, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I should remind myself that \$40 million is not within the budget that we are considering. I should have corrected Members to try to refrain from mentioning the \$40 million. That isn't within the budget of this government. General comments. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I noticed in the Minister's opening statement yesterday, a comment which I would like to make reference to that they are proposing greater reductions in headquarters and in administration support; reductions of approximately 15 per cent. Significant reductions in staff positions at headquarters will be required to meet this goal. Are these reductions already incorporated into the budget or are these being proposed in future?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Minister.

Mr.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The positions are incorporated in this budget.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister tell me how many staff reductions were involved at headquarters?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At headquarters, there were 25 person years reduced, 16 of which were vacant positions, four were term positions to March 31, 1996, only five people had to be laid off and two have already been redeployed within the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Any further general comments? Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't have the information readily available earlier. The Minister has some additional help there. Mr. Erasmus wasn't helping me to get this ready. The Minister had

informed us that there is approximately 300 available seats in Yellowknife. I also mentioned earlier that St. Patrick School is over 30 years old. I am looking at renovations to three schools in other community in the Territories. One community has a population of 385, another has 350 and between both of those communities, we are looking at spending \$11 million. One of these schools has a 40 per cent utilization rate and the other one has a 38 per cent utilization. I am a little bit confused as to where the fairness is at here when, in Yellowknife, we pay 25 per cent of the school taxes to run the schools. I am just wondering where that fairness would come in. I am wondering about the principles the department has established for renovations when I look at the amounts of money that is being spent, plus the last time renovations were performed in these schools.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Merci. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Utilization may not have anything to do with the need for a renovation of a facility. We have some schools in the Northwest Territories that are relatively new that are in very bad condition. We have others that are even older than the old St. Pat's that are still in use and have not been significantly renovated since they were built. It is difficult to explain exactly why one might be done in one year and one not in another. The utilization rate may not be relevant when it comes to talking about renovations to a school. There could be a technical problem. There could be a problem that has developed since the construction and perhaps it was a poorly-built school in the first place. That is always a possibility.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Minister have the information available now on how many communities presently have portables to house their students?

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.



**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, we don't have that information available at our fingertips. It would be safe to say many. That would be a good answer. I am not sure if I can say most, but many is certainly the case.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, I forgot to indicate something. Mr. Henry had asked if he could have a copy of our capital priority ranking sheet. I would be quite happy to share that with Mr. Henry and any other Members of the committee who would like to see it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I believe all Members would like that provided, for the record. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is regarding aboriginal languages. There seems to be a shortage of funds when it comes to hiring individuals to carry out the teaching of these programs. Has money been allocated this year to ensure there will be aboriginal teachers available to schools where the curriculum is being developed or delivered?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Minister of Education.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could ask the acting deputy minister to answer that question. I think he has more information on it than I have.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Colbourne.

**MR. COLBOURNE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The major goal of the teacher training program in the Northwest Territories is to develop a trained cadre of aboriginal teachers who are able to deliver programs in the aboriginal languages. That's one investment that we're making in this respect. Also, in just about all schools in the

Northwest Territories, we have a category of teachers called "aboriginal language specialist teachers" who deliver those programs, as well as classroom assistants.

Each board also makes available to community education authorities, local program funding which is for the purpose of delivery of Dene Kede and Inuuqatigiit, or parts of these particular curricula in the schools. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Are you saying there is money available there to administer these programs for this fiscal year?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's built into the formula. It's in different places, but the answer is yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are no adult education centres in Wha Ti, Snare Lake, Rae Lakes, Ndilo or Dettah. There is only one permanent adult educator for all the North Slave communities. When literacy is such a problem, how does the department justify this?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Just a minute, Mr. Chairman, I want to provide some statistics in my response, which I believe are in my book here but I have to find them.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member has brought up an area of difficulty. He's right; if, indeed, adult literacy is a problem and if it is a priority of this government, it is a concern that there are a number of communities that don't have base-funded programs for adult educators. Unfortunately, given the fiscal restraint we are under, we have a really major problem in trying to expand. There are 58 communities in the Northwest Territories and we, for the past number of years, have only had adult educators in 35 of those communities. We do not have, within our budget, the resources to expand the number of base-funded locations. Given the fact that the colleges are getting a reduced amount of funding in this budget compared to last year, it's difficult to see how we can expand the locations of base-funded programs.

The college has been extremely aggressive, though, at finding third-party funding to deliver programs in communities where base-funded opportunities are not available. In the Dogrib communities, that has been the case. We will do our best; I have told the Member for North Slave that the college will continue to work very hard to locate third-party funding in order to ensure that we can provide as many programs as possible in those communities, in the absence of having base-funded programs there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Aurora College currently operates a program called "northern skills development program." The program is specifically for students on social services. There has been \$2 million allocated in the current budget for this type of program. There is currently a waiting list in excess of 100 people on social assistance in Yellowknife, who are waiting to participate in the program. I would like to ask the Minister of Education if the \$2 million includes funding for Yellowknife programs and, if so, could you provide me with an amount for the Yellowknife campus.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Honourable Minister of Education.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$2 million is all of the funding that's available for the entire Northwest Territories; so, yes, Yellowknife would be one of the places that the program may be offered. As to the specific locations where that type of training will be provided

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this year, I do not believe that has been determined yet. As I mentioned in my response to Mr. Steen, the \$2 million we have represents a reduction by two-thirds in the amount of funding that we had in the past fiscal year. We spent \$6 million, between our money and the federal money, in the past year, providing this kind of program. So we are not going to be able to deliver nearly the amount of training that we did in the past year, and I doubt we will be able to meet the demand across the Northwest Territories. It's particularly frustrating for me, as Minister, to have to say that because we have all sorts of demonstrated success with this program. But I have been unable to convince the federal government -- and I have spoken to Mr. Young and Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew about the program and how well it has worked -- to come on board with it again. We just don't have any more money. So we will do our best to provide equity of access across the Northwest Territories, but all Members will have to recognize that the amount of money we have is insufficient to meet the demand across the Territories.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister's predicament. I think we all realize we have to be able to do more with less. The Minister has identified \$2 million, he's identified that it's two-thirds less than the amount we had last year. Is the Minister also telling me that it hasn't been identified where this money is going, which campuses and the amounts, at this stage?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, as far as I'm aware, the locations for delivery of the programs have not been finalized, that is correct. The current Investing in People program

continues on through August of this year, so we have some time in which to get this program going. The cost-shared program with the federal government did not start until September 1994, so for the full two years to take place, some of that funding is ongoing through August of this year.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Could then Minister identify how much money has been allocated for academic studies this year and if there have been reductions to amounts? I'm talking about postsecondary studies to help people with pre-employment such as trades.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, the colleges' contribution has been reduced; which means that there may be some impact on some programs within the college. I can't speak specifically as to whether that might involve the program that the Member refers to. However, in our reinvestment opportunities that we show in the budget, we have put in \$300,000 for the building and learning strategy, for instance, which is a trades-based training program. We have identified \$100,000 to assist the college to provide a pre-engineering/technology pilot program. We have identified \$300,000 for mining training. We have identified \$200,000 for a labour force plan to help ensure that our programming is being delivered in the proper areas and achieving the goals that we want to see it achieve.

I believe that we have demonstrated the commitment to adult training. Unfortunately, there has had to be some reduction in the base funding to the colleges. It's a simple matter of the target for the department being reduced.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the chairman has been very, very lenient in allowing the discussion and

the questions which, from my understanding, are supposed to be of a general nature. I believe that a lot of this could come later when we get into the program part. Unless we're going to go through a little bit of this today, clause by clause, I would suggest that we report progress and do clause by clause full speed ahead tomorrow.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Erasmus, are you making a motion?

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

I will rise and report progress. I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses for appearing before the committee. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The House will come back to order. 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, you committee has been considering Bill 11 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Secunder for the motion. Mr. Steen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

--- Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Item 23, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 23: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there are meetings for tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, at 10:00

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a.m. of the Standing Committee on Resource Management, and at 12:00 p.m. of the Nunavut Caucus.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, May 8, 1996:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 13, Loan Authorization Act, 1996-97

19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills  
and Other Matters  
- Bill 11, Appropriation Act, 1996-97  
- 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 Wednesday, May 8, 1996, at 1:30 p.m.

**--- ADJOURNMENT**