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## **HANSARD**

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**The Honourable Samuel Gargan, Speaker**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1996**

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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. Miltenberger, Hon. Don Morin,  
Mr. Ningark, Mr. O'Brien, Mr.

Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Steen, Hon.  
Manitok Thompson, Hon. John Todd

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

--- Prayer

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

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Good afternoon.  
Orders of the day, item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr.  
Antoine.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

Minister's Statement 43-13(3): NWT Representation  
On Review Of Bill C-222

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Honourable Members will  
already know that the House of Commons is  
considering proposed legislation which, if enacted,  
would amend the Canada Food and Drugs Act to  
require that health warning labels are placed on  
alcohol beverage containers sold in Canada. I wish to  
assure the House today that the Government of the  
Northwest Territories will be taking a leadership role  
in encouraging the passage of this bill.

Since 1992, Mr. Speaker, our NWT Liquor  
Commission has had a policy which requires health  
warning labels to be placed on products sold in liquor  
stores within our jurisdiction. We have found warning  
labels effective in raising awareness of the risks  
associated with alcohol consumption, and they have  
become a key component of our broader health  
promotion strategy.

There are only two Canadian jurisdictions to establish  
a warning label program for liquor products. We are  
one, the Yukon is the other.

Bill C-222 would require similar labels to be placed on  
alcohol beverage containers sold all across Canada.  
The warning would advise consumers that alcohol  
consumption impairs their ability to operate machinery  
or to drive. It would also indicate that alcohol  
consumption may cause health problems or cause  
birth defects during pregnancy.

Mr. Speaker, Bill C-222 has now received second  
reading in the House of Commons and has been  
referred to the Standing Committee on Health for  
public hearings.

Frankly, we have been shocked and dismayed by  
some of the arguments that opponents of this bill  
have raised at public hearings to date. The industry  
lobby has suggested that warning labels are  
ineffective and costly. Our experience in the  
Northwest Territories has been the exact opposite.

I am pleased to confirm that we will be sharing that  
experience with the Members of Parliament who are  
now reviewing Bill C-222. On Thursday, May 9th, my  
honourable colleague from Inuvik, Mr. Floyd Roland,  
will be leading a three-person delegation to Ottawa to  
appear at public hearings on Parliament Hill.

Mr. Roland and the officials accompanying him, will  
tell the standing committee that the Northwest  
Territories fully supports the passage of Bill C-222  
and they will be taking direct aim at some of the  
misinformation that has been provided by lobby  
groups who claim that liquor product labelling is  
ineffective and unimportant.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that has implications for  
people and the Government of the Northwest  
Territories. Passage of Bill C-222 will not only provide  
consistency in the message given to Canadians about  
the risks of alcohol abuse, but it will also shift the  
onus for funding the costs of liquor labelling to the  
industry, where many northerners feel it belongs.

Mr. Speaker, when the Premier gave his opening  
statement, he indicated that this government will  
ensure that northerners' views are fully represented at  
the national levels. On the matter of health warning  
labels and the review of Bill C-222, I can assure you  
that we will be heard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Minister's Statement 44-13(3): Remote Housing Initiative

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, Members will recall that last week I was able to travel to Ottawa and speak with the federal Minister. In addition, at that time, the president of the NWT Housing Corporation was able to meet with senior officials from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to discuss major issues.

--- Applause

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... and possibly as much as \$15 million to be used for housing in remote communities with a population of 2,500 or fewer people.

Mr. Speaker, this money must be cost shared by the NWT Housing Corporation on a 75/25 basis. That is, for every \$75 the federal government provides, the NWT Housing Corporation must provide \$25. Because this is one-time money, it is conditional that the money can only be used for work that is completed within the 1996-97 fiscal year. As I speak, the NWT Housing Corporation is working out plans of how this new money can be used on existing home ownership projects that can be delivered and completed this year without any requirement for additional grants from the Government of the Northwest Territories.

I am very pleased that we have been able to reach an agreement on this new federal funding for housing at a time when cutbacks and decreases seem to be affecting us all. This new money is much needed and will, in a small way, help alleviate the housing crisis we have in our remote, offroad communities.

As well, Mr. Speaker, these new housing dollars mean jobs in the North and needed support to suppliers and manufacturers. It is estimated that the \$10 million will build 50 to 70 additional houses and will create the equivalent of 500 to 700 jobs during construction.

I must emphasize that this new money is only one-time capital dollars which must be used for home ownership in remote communities. While it is greatly appreciated and needed, it does not replace the proposed CMHC reductions in operations and maintenance of social housing which I informed Members about earlier. The NWT Housing Corporation will be facing these challenges in the next

few weeks when other meetings are held with CMHC officials.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Minister's Statement 45-13(3): Seatbelt Check Campaign

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the Members of the House and their constituents that, through the month of May, local law enforcement officers will be conducting seatbelt checks on the highways and roads in communities across the Northwest Territories. The failure to wear seatbelts is the leading cause of death and injury in motor vehicle collisions in the Northwest Territories.

Checkstops will be set up to see that drivers and passengers are wearing seatbelts and young children are properly secured in child restraint seats. According to Transport

Canada's last seatbelt survey in October 1994, the seatbelt usage rate in the Northwest Territories was 78 per cent. This is considerably lower than the national average of 92 per cent.

The seatbelt checks coincide with Transport Canada's national seatbelt survey this year all across Canada. For the first time, the survey will include all the people in a vehicle. The Northwest Territories aims to achieve the national occupant restraint program goal of 95 per cent usage for everyone in a vehicle by the year 2001. While past efforts have improved the usage in the Northwest Territories, there are still 20 to 25 per cent of drivers and passengers who fail to wear their seatbelts.

The use of child restraint seats is especially poor. Only 35 per cent of children travelling as passengers are safely secured in restraint seats. The Yellowknife and Hay River fire departments will offer child seat clinics to help parents make sure that their child restraint seats are securely installed and properly used.

Most of the deaths and injuries resulting from motor vehicle accidents could be avoided if only people would get in the habit of wearing their seatbelts. My

message is simple. I urge everyone in the Northwest Territories to buckle up. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On MLAs' Salaries And Benefits Packages

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address a subject today in my Member's statement which seems to be surrounded by a considerable amount of controversy. I know that I and probably just about every Member elected to this Assembly campaigned for election on a promise of open and accountable government. I made a commitment to the electorate of Hay River that I would support the abolishment of the lucrative three per cent supplementary MLA pension plan. I also committed to support rolling back MLAs' compensation and benefits to the same extent that we would expect our public service sector to accept.

In the new Members' zeal to show good faith in this matter, we did what some thought was a noble thing. - was personally of the opinion that we could revamp our own pay and benefits package without spending on a costly commission. However, the commission's report turned out to be more than we had bargained for and anticipated. The terms of reference and mandate given to the commission were very broad. As a result, 43 fairly-sweeping recommendations came forward. They mostly addressed the process by which MLAs are compensated, as opposed to the amount they are paid. The overall cost of the recommended package is not significantly greater than the old, with the

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exception of the major saving from the pension program change.

With the pressing issues of the budget planning and negotiations with the various unions upon us, rather than delving into the pros and cons of raising base salaries and deleting indemnities, versus keeping base salaries and indemnities separate, at cetera, we

agreed that this was not the appropriate time to undertake a complete overhauling of the process by which MLAs are compensated. Thus, we returned to our original intent, which was to do away with the supplementary pension and roll back salaries and indemnities, and we did this. Unfortunately, the per them we are paid to live outside of our constituencies is not deemed to be an indemnity; but rather an allowance to cover expenditures related to living away from home. This is indexed and, effective April 1st, went up by 2.1 per cent. I, personally, thought that the seven per cent reduction covered everything: salaries, indemnities and allowances. In respect to this cost-of-living index increase, I support it being reduced by seven per cent from the 1995 rate.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Hay River is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Conclude your statement, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to VTAs, MLAs are no longer eligible for them and we now fall under the same guidelines as the Hay Plan employees of the government.

The report on MLAs' compensation was tabled in the House and it was taken into Committee of the Whole and it was debated briefly. However, judging by the letters that I've received from my constituents, they would like to see further debate of all 43 recommendations line by line.

Although MLAs may feel that we have done our part in taking the seven per cent reduction and abolishing the supplementary pension, it's clear to me that the impact of this initiative has been overshadowed by the decision to defer the debate on the broader issue of process. For that reason and in the interests of public and accountable government, I would like to go on record as supporting a full and public debate on the report on MLAs' compensation. I will be attempting to retable the report on MLA compensation today, and will be giving notice of a motion to move it into Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statement. Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement On Transfer Of Justice  
Responsibilities To Communities

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, there is a public outcry from my area about the current justice system of this government; in particular, from the community of Gjoa Haven and the Gjoa Haven Justice Committee. The Gjoa Haven Justice Committee wants the community to have more control over the justice system in

that community. It has seen a justice system that has failed to meet real meaningful resolutions in some areas of justice.

Mr. Speaker, I have a statement from the Gjoa Haven Justice Committee, and I quote, "We want to make clear that the western justice system is still necessary, but reform is needed as a result of its many inadequacies. It is an adversarial system where one person wins and another loses. This system is ineffective because it relies on lawyers who are not from the communities and are the only ones who know the legal procedures of the system. It is a serious matter that the western justice system will continue to be necessary. However, more referrals are needed to a community-based justice system because it can deal with some problems better than any court can. It is clear that jails are not the answer. We want our people to be on the land, and not in jail, where they can learn how to survive."

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking how quickly this government is prepared to give more responsibilities of the justice program to communities. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Housing Shortage In Amittuq

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are experiencing a severe housing shortage in my constituency, as well as across the NWT. These are the main roads to our ongoing social problems and continuing health-related problems which, in turn, affect the very lives of people in the communities in a detrimental manner. Many people are struggling to make a living at a time of high unemployment, fiscal

restraint and job cuts. The social and health problems, in turn, place a higher demand on services and a budget that has already been cut to well below what is really needed.

I realize that the government's staff housing units are being transferred to the authority of the local housing associations through the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation programs, and I applaud the Minister for this endeavour in allowing housing associations to have more involvement and more decision-making powers at the community level, in keep with the GNWT's initiative of empowering communities. It is important that we continue to look at housing issues and problems at the community level. I hope this will result in more flexibility in the allocation of staff housing units and social housing under one umbrella, which will free up more units to local people as needs arise.

As the Member representing the Amittuq riding, I will have more specific questions concerning these programs to the appropriate Minister during question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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Member's Statement On Minister Antoine's  
Assistance Provided To Baffin Central Communities

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Honourable Jim Antoine, Minister of Transportation, for the visit he made to my constituency on January 30 and 31, 1996. The visit began with a very happy evening, celebrating the opening of the new Pangnirtung air terminal; a splendid building which cost over \$1 million. I know that the people of Pangnirtung are very happy with this much-needed new facility for their very busy airport.

The next day, Mr. Speaker, we went to Broughton Island. The hamlet council expressed their concerns about their airstrip. The strip is pretty well worn down to bedrock and the hamlet would like it lengthened.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to learn from the Baffin regional office that this project is to go to tender later this month and that there are plans to resurface

the runway over three years, beginning with gravel crushing this fall. I understand that this contract is valued at approximately \$800,000 for each of the next three years.

Later that day, we went to my home community of Clyde River. There, the hamlet council talked about the need to improve access to a prime hunting area called "Tupiqtaalik." Mr. Speaker, the Minister made a commitment to help the community, and I am very pleased to learn that the sum of \$50,000 will be spent this summer and in each of the following three years. Mr. Speaker, this will be a great help to hunters in Clyde River.

The hamlet also talked about the need for renovating the air terminal in Clyde River. Since then, I am pleased to learn that the hamlet has been contracted to perform renovations to improve the situation until a new terminal can be built.

The mayor and hamlet council also discussed the need for a new breakwater and harbour improvements. Once again, I am pleased to learn from Mr. Kunuk, the regional superintendent, that a study of the Clyde River harbour has just been completed by Ferguson, Simek and Clark, which should lead to detailed plans for improving the harbour.

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

**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:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Honourable Jim Antoine, Minister of Transportation; his assistant deputy minister, Jason Brown; and, Mr. John Graham, manager of community airports, for coming to my constituency and for the good responses they have made to our concerns.

For all these projects, I am pleased that the regional staff plan to visit the communities soon to go over the detailed plans with them. Mr. Speaker, I like the way this Minister and his officials work.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement On Extending Happy Mother's Day Wishes

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about those people near and dear to the hearts of all of us: our mothers.

--- Applause

This Sunday, mothers across the Northwest Territories will be treated to a special picture or craft made by little hands, or a meal at a local eatery. For any of us who can remember being teenagers, our mothers sometimes drove us crazy. However, as we get older, we really appreciate just how much our mothers did for us.

My mother is a wonderful lady. She raised six of us -- four boys; no mean task -- and she worked very hard to keep us happy and healthy. She taught us many things over the years. My mother always encouraged us to be open, honest individuals. She taught us to enjoy the company of others and to approach each new person as a possible new friend. In a family with six children, there were often things said or done that caused unhappiness for one of us. My mother taught us to turn the other cheek and be patient with others when they didn't do things exactly the way we wanted them to. She always encouraged us to treat others the way we wanted to be treated. When we had disagreements, she made us work them out together, helping us to learn that the world isn't black and white and that there's always another side to every story. Finally, my mother taught me to enjoy life and people around me. I've always tried to do that, both with my family and friends, and with my colleagues in the workplace.

The hard work of mothers goes on 365 days a year. Let us all take time on Sunday to make sure they know how much we love them and appreciate their efforts. To all the mothers in my life my mother, my wife, Jeri, and my daughter, Michhela Happy Mother's Day. Thank you.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Assistance Required To Facilitate

Community Empowerment

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if I can top that, Michael. A job well done.

This government has outlined the course of action it will take over the next four years, in a document titled Northwest Territories Agenda for Change. Of the 10 priorities the government listed, improving social and economic conditions

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ranked two and three effectively; community empowerment ranked fourth; and, control of our future is ranked in the ninth position.

The government-stated vision includes a healthier and "better educated and self-reliant northerner able to enjoy a good quality of life, access to more jobs and more jobs they want and need." Mr. Speaker, I believe we will have to settle for a more practical vision of helping northerners.

A pragmatist viewing our current plans would wonder how the government can hope to improve social and economic conditions when they are reducing or withdrawing funds put in place to ease social realities and raise the level of our education and training programs.

The communities have already questioned the real meaning of empowerment, asking how the level of the children's education can be raised when school boards are being forced to lay off numerous teachers. The Kivallivik region alone will lose six teaching positions this year: one in Baker Lake and five from my own community of Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, this is a prime example of an issue that will not only have a direct negative impact on our children, but will indirectly impede our progress in preparing for a sound foundation for Nunavut. When we tie the critical issue of education with the decreased incremental dollars, some of which are for training, with the sum recently announced by Mr. Irwin, I believe we will all agree that our deep concerns over education and training are more than

justified. Mr. Speaker, when we consider the reduction in our federal funding of approximately \$100 million and the incremental funding for division as proposed by Mr. Irwin, the net gain is shameful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Matna. Mahsi cho.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Higher Costs Of Education Services In Yellowknife

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have received a number of letters from constituents who are concerned that education costs in Yellowknife are higher than in other communities of the NWT. They have two areas of concern. It appears that with the new Education Act, all educational boards, divisional or Yellowknife, now have the same fights and responsibilities. There seems to be a significant difference in the tax and financial burden for educational purposes for Yellowknife, as compared to the other taxbased municipalities and the non-tax-based communities in the NWT.

The second concern they have is that Yellowknife is used as a base for many services and resources in the Territories. As

a result, some children move to Yellowknife for certain time frames to receive these services. The Yellowknife school system, as a result, tries to accommodate the children who arrive. These children often have special needs because of the circumstances surrounding their temporary move to Yellowknife.

The school districts do their best to provide the incoming students with the support that they need, but there is little funding provided for those added demands on the school system. Again, the constituents asked that we look into ways to help finance the support needed for these students while they are in Yellowknife and away from their home communities. Later today, I will table a document containing the letters of concerns expressed by my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Opening Of Parnaivik Building In Iqaluit And Retirement Of Reverend Mike Gardener

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I was home in Iqaluit and was able to attend two memorable events: the Baffin Regional Inuit Association and their community economic development arm, the Kakivak Association, opened their new office building, the Parnaivik Building.

Mr. Speaker, this is more than a building. It is the fruition of a dream that Kakivak has had for the past few years. In 1992, it was on the drawing board but because of fiscal restraint, the project had to be delayed. The staff of the Kakivak Association did not despair. They redrew their plans and on May 3rd, the building was officially opened.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Agnakak, David Berman and the rest of the Kakivak staff have to be justifiably proud of their new building. It contains their office, along with an incubator mall for new Inuit businesses to begin their entrepreneurship.

Having worked closely with Kakivak since 1992, I know the amount of time and frustration that they faced to build a building that the critics said would not be built.

Mr. Speaker, the manager of the Kakivak Association, Pat Agnakak's father is the Reverend Mike Gardener. Mr. Gardener is officially retiring from active ministry of the St. Jude's Parish in Iqaluit after 40 years of service to the residents of the Eastern Arctic.

Mike is well known and respected all throughout Nunavut and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Mike for all the years of his devoted service and unselfish devotion to our community and the people of

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Iqaluit, and his former parishes of Pangnirtung, Kimmirut and Cape Dorset. We all wish him and his wife, Margaret, the best in their retirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Congratulating Tina Muckpaloo On Silver Star Award

**MR. BARNABAS:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (End of translation) I am pleased to rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of one of my young constituents, Cadet Master Corporal Tina Muckpaloo of 3045 Arctic Bay Army Cadet Corps.

On April 29, 1996, Tina travelled to Ottawa to attend the celebrations for the 117th anniversary of the Army Cadet Corps of Canada. At a ceremony attended by the Prime Minister and other dignitaries, including a grand parade and marching bands, Tina Muckpaloo was awarded the Silver Star Award for being the most proficient army cadet in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, Tina was given this award, not only for her good work with the Arctic Bay Army Cadet Corps, which is commanded by Mr. Dennis Hubbell, who is a local teacher, but also for her community service.

Tina has been in the Arctic Bay cadets since August 1993. She received the most-improved cadet award in 1995 and is one of the top female shooters on the rifle team and is a member of the zone 4 drill team. She has always had perfect attendance at school; where she is an exemplary student, and she never misses cadets. Her commanding officer, who nominated her for this award, says that he is often impressed with the great respect that is given to her by her peers. This is revealed by the immense concern for others in the corps and within her community. For example, Tina is the type of person who cleans her neighbour's house when they are ill.

This young woman is a credit to herself, her community and her family. Her parents are Koonoo and lama Muckpaloo. In a recent letter, the deputy mayor of Arctic Bay, Mr. Pauloosie Muckpa, said that Tina should feel proud of her personal achievement and for the healthy competition from her fellow cadets who helped her achieve the award. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue.

**MR. SPEAKER:**



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

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The deputy mayor went on to say that he expects this to be one of the many successes Tina will have in her life. I am sure all Members will wish to join me in congratulating this outstanding young woman. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Concerns Re Tender Call For Quality Assurance On Highway 3

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I stood in this House and asked the Minister of Transportation a question regarding ABT being invited for a tender call. First, let me state that ABT came to me not looking for any special treatment, but to have an opportunity to bid on a contract in our area. I do realize the need for a policy, but this policy seems rather unfair, when you consider a company being invited to submit a tender on a job worth \$100,000 but not able to bid on the one worth \$2 million. This could easily show favouritism. I think all contracts that are tendered should follow current policy, such as northern preference and business incentive. Maybe it is time we reviewed the tender policies currently in use.

I find it very frustrating that our government, on one hand, promotes and encourages local people to start businesses and, at the same time, this same government refuses to allow a locally-owned company to pursue active contracts that will hire and train local people in our area who are needed now and more so in the future.

I am also concerned with the Minister's lines of communication, as stated in an oral question of yesterday. I received a letter from the mayor of Rae-Edzo on Thursday, May 2, 1996, at approximately 9:22 a.m. Mr. Marion came to my office at approximately 1:15 p.m. to deliver letters to the Premier and Ministers, with the letter from Grand Chief Joe Rabesca going directly to the Premier and Minister via fax at 11:15 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, as you may recall, the Minister indicated that he had no knowledge of this concern until noon of May 7, 1996. Something didn't work. I would like to thank the Minister for his reply. However, he should take note that I will be asking further questions today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Use Of Electronic Monitoring For NWT Inmates

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday, I spoke on the subject of electronic monitoring of prisoners. This alternative to traditional jails allows those convicted of non-violent offences to serve their sentences at home. I note that I am not the only one who thinks this is an idea worth implementing. Monday's News/North included an editorial which agreed with me that any solution which could reduce overcrowding in our jails and save money is worth a closer look.

When I questioned the Minister of Justice on the subject on Friday, he responded by saying that electronic monitoring wouldn't be practical in the Northwest Territories. I can appreciate that immediate savings in such a program might not seem worth the initial expense, but there are a number

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of factors to consider. For example, our jails right now are running at almost 30 per cent over capacity. This problem is projected to get even worse very quickly. If electronic monitoring means we don't have to spend scarce dollars on new jails or if it means we can avoid an incident such as the riot at Manitoba's jail in April, it will probably prove very worthwhile in the long run.

I recognize our potential problems with implementing this technology. We don't have a large inmate base compared to other jurisdictions. We would probably not be able to have 60 or so inmates on this program at any one time. Long distance telephone calls are an important part of the program, As we all know, these costs are high up here.

Many northerners' homes don't even have telephone access. Inmates on an electronic monitoring program need support to successfully complete the program. We don't always have all the support and resources

we need for our inmates. Similarly, supervisors can't just drive from Yellowknife and visit, whereas supervisors in BC's program can from their offices.

This government has much of the concept of community empowerment and community justice. Non-violent inmates who need to serve short or intermittent sentences might need only minimal or community support using the same resources intended for community wellness and justice initiatives. Local elders and other people could prove to be an effective source of limited supervision and other support. Staying in the community would save travel dollars and would allow those convicted of relatively minor offences all the benefits of remaining in their community. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Yellowknife North is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, about 33 per cent of our inmates are in jail for offences which did not involve violence. About 13 per cent of all inmates have no violent history. If some of these inmates can serve their sentences outside of the additional walled prison, we might be able to avoid many costly problems down the road.

Earlier today, Minister Antoine indicated that Cabinet was shocked and dismayed by some of the arguments that were made by opponents to Bill C-222. Mr. Speaker, I, too, am shocked and dismayed that a government department's first response is merely that it is too expensive. We have never done it that way before. It wouldn't work up here. My response is that the government has to learn how to think more creatively. Remember, jails are very expensive. They were never used here before the Second World War and they aren't working very well up here either. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Utilization Rate Of Yellowknife Schools

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, during the review of the Education budget with the Minister of Education, Mr. Dent indicated that Yellowknife has a utilization rate in all Yellowknife schools of 80 per cent. This figure takes into account the old St. Patrick High School, which this previous government saw fit to replace and not renovate. I suggested to the Minister that the actual utilization rate in Yellowknife was over 92 per cent. I did not feel that using space of portables and the old high school could be factored into this rate.

Mr. Dent indicated that: "The Member appears to be absolutely right. 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." I said we can deal with an influx if that is what happens.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated 322 seats available within the city's 10 schools would be sufficient to address the needs. I would like to challenge this figure, as I feel it may be misleading. If we were to break down the number of seats overall and distribute them into the 10 schools, this would mean that each school in Yellowknife would have approximately 30 vacant seats. Mr. Speaker, this is not the case in many schools.

Currently, our two high schools have very high utilization rates, which are well above the 85 per cent utilization rate set by the department. We can incorrectly think that the actual number of seats available at the specific grade levels will accommodate the needs for further growth. Currently, the utilization rate of Sir John Franklin High School is 99.29 per cent and the rate at St. Patrick High School is 107 per cent; both well beyond the acceptable level of 85 per cent set by the Department of Education. Further indicators reflect much higher rates for the next year.

Later today, I will be asking the Minister further questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 114-13(3): Status Of Funding To Cooperatives For Credit Union

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in response to a question asked by Mr. Kevin O'Brien on May 2nd.

Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Member's questions I will note that today I attended the annual general meeting of the Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. and the Co-op Business Development Corporation here in Yellowknife.

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism continues to be supportive of the co-ops' efforts to initiate unions in the Northwest Territories. The Member is correct

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that some \$400,000 in funds committed under the Canada/NWT economic development agreement were approved in April 1995, but the availability of these funds was contingent on Arctic co-operatives raising a required capital pool of \$7 million; a sum which their proposal indicated was required for start-up purposes. Throughout 1995 and the early part of this year, Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. was only partially successful in raising the required capital pool that they need to establish the credit union. To this date, we know they have only been partially successful.

The funds committed in April last year under the economic development agreement were originally approved for a three month period. In an effort to give more time to the co-ops to raise funds for their capital pool, the commitment within the economic development agreement was extended on two occasions last year. By March 1, 1996, the co-ops were still not successful in raising their required capital pool and, as a consequence, the EDA funds were redeployed since they would have otherwise lapsed.

This department, however, remains committed to the credit union initiative and has identified other sources of funding to assist the credit union initiative. However, Arctic Cooperatives has some work to do yet to raise the required capital pool. Once I have had an opportunity to meet with the Arctic Co-operatives executive and learn about the status of their efforts, and once I have gained more information about their efforts to establish their capital pool, I will be in a

better position to respond to their requirements. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 162-13(3): Education Tax Increases

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Roland on May 6th with respect to the education tax increases.

Education tax rates in tax-based municipalities and education and property tax rates in the general taxation area are set annually by the Minister of Finance by the issuance of an establishment order under the Property Assessment and Taxation Act. The establishment order implementing the increase for 1996 has been signed. In the past, no prior notice would normally have been given until this was done.

In recognition of the open nature of doing business in this government, it is my intention to keep Members advised of the initiatives of this nature. However, in this case, the Member is correct that MLAs were not informed of the increase and I apologize for this oversight.

On the subject of the revenue gain from the increase in the education and property tax, it is estimated to be \$575,000 in 1996-97. Of this amount, \$160,000 is expected to be collected from the education tax in tax-based municipalities, and \$415,000 from education and property tax in the general taxation area.

The impact of the tax increase depends on the level of assessment on each property. For tax-based communities, average assessments range from approximately \$40,000 in Fort Simpson to \$90,000 in Inuvik. The average rise in education tax would therefore be from \$306 to \$336 in Inuvik and from \$172 to \$190 in Fort Simpson, increases of \$30 and \$18 per year respectively.

In the general taxation area, the increases are similar. In Cape Dorset, for example, where the average assessment of a single-family income is \$43,000, property and education taxes would rise from \$287 to \$316, an increase of \$29 per year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Picco regarding tabling of sole-source contracts.

Mr. Picco asked if the government would publish the sole-source and negotiated contracts of this government. The government now publishes all contract payments quarterly, where the contract payments are over \$5,000. This report is sent to Members of the Legislative Assembly and to the NWT Chamber of Commerce. It is available to any member of the general public for \$9, to cover the cost of printing. This report captures all tendered, negotiated and sole-sourced contracts entered into by this government and identifies the contractor, the contractors' location, the source document contract number, the nature of the contract payments, the location where the contract service or benefit is provided and the amount of each contract. The report also identifies whether the contractor is northern or southern. The most recent version of this report has just been sent out under cover letter from the chairman of the Financial Management Board, the Honourable John Todd. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Thompson.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize some very important ladies in the gallery. The Status of Women Council of the NWT board is holding its annual meeting in Yellowknife this week. Board members present in the Speaker's Gallery today are President Rita Arey, from Aklavik...

--- Applause

I'll just go down the list and they can all stand up. Vice-President Sister Agnes Sutherland from Fort Smith...

--- Applause

... Vice-President Rebecca Kudloo from Baker Lake...

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--- Applause

... Director Elizabeth Lyall from Taloyoak...

--- Applause

... Director Joan Kalaserk from Rankin Inlet...

--- Applause

... Director Vera Morin from Hay River...

--- Applause

... there are also council staff who are present in the Speaker's Gallery who are Sharon Bunes-Hall, executive director...

--- Applause

... Marsha Argue, researcher...

--- Applause

... Theresa Handley, administrative assistant

--- Applause

... Susan Starr, meeting facilitator...

--- Applause

... and Bertha Norwegian, special advisor on women's issues.

--- Applause

Thank you. I really appreciate these ladies.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you and welcome to the Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Lydia Bardak today, the executive director of the NWT Council for Disabled Persons.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to recognize one of the ladies touched on by the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, and that's Sister Agnes Sutherland...

--- Applause

... a respected elder. She's a respected elder in the community, an author and has devoted her life to working for the people in all social areas: with the disabled, the elderly and all other people in need. Thank you.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 184-13(3): Use Of WCB Accident Fund To Finance Mortgage Investment Fund

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd. Mr. Speaker, in a recent newspaper article, it was inferred by the NWT Federation of Labour president, Jim Evoy, that the Minister responsible for the WCB intends to use the accident fund to finance the Mortgage Investment Fund. Mr. Speaker, this statement concerns me and I would like the Minister to advise whether this is true or not.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 184-13(3): Use Of WCB Accident Fund To Finance Mortgage Investment Fund

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would start off by saying it's the usual unsubstantiated rhetoric from this organization; in particular, the spokesperson who represents them.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Hear! Hear!

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I want to assure my colleagues and the constituency at large that nothing is further from the truth.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 185-13(3): Transfer Of Justice Responsibilities To Communities

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my Member's statement regarding the justice system in the smaller communities, my question is directed to the honourable Premier of this government. Mr. Speaker, sometimes the conventional method doesn't always attain the expectation of the public. There are times that you have to try something new. Mr. Speaker, I'm not about to compromise the safety of the people of this government to get into a new program. However, Mr. Speaker, the current justice system is not working in some smaller communities, especially with the offences with lesser crimes, as my colleague Mr. Erasmus has indicated. I think what the people sometimes need is to get closer to nature, get closer to their communities, their cultures, get closer to the Creator; in this case, out on the land with the elders and appear before the elders. How soon will this government enhance the plan of this government to allow the communities to take on some of the responsibilities of justice? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

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Return To Question 185-13(3): Transfer Of Justice Responsibilities To Communities

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the capable Minister, Mr. Ng, will work with the communities to have community justice and community alternatives to the justice system developed with the community. I know this government has a track record of working with the communities to improve the justice system, and we will continue to do that. Hopefully, next week, on Monday or Tuesday, Mr. Ng could answer the Member more specifically on his issue and alleviate that problem that his community has. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 185-13(3): Transfer Of Justice Responsibilities To Communities

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, I remember during the 12th Assembly, that dream of having justice closer to the community, sentencing coming from the community for lesser crimes was on the table. Today, as I speak about the same problem, nothing concrete has been done to allow the communities to have more say in our justice system. Will the Premier seriously have a talk with his colleague and get back to the people of Gjoa Haven on how soon the community will be able to take over some of the responsibilities that community rightfully should have? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 185-13(3): Transfer Of Justice Responsibilities To Communities

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are on record, as a government, saying that we do support community empowerment, we do support the communities to take on more responsibilities, and we definitely support the communities in taking on more responsibilities in the justice system. It has been proven already by communities that have taken on that responsibility, where they have elders' committees or elders' sentencing circles or the community involved anyway. It does help in the community and it does help to decrease the crime in the community.

Next week, I will be happy to have the Minister of Justice meet with the honourable Member and get moving on his community initiative. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 186-13(3): Purchase Of GNWT Staff

Housing

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Housing. As I stated, I have a concern about housing with the new arrangements to place government staff housing units with local authorities. I would like to ask if people in the communities will be able to purchase the government houses in the future.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Housing, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 186-13(3): Purchase Of GNWT Staff Housing

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

(Translation) The people will be able to purchase the government staff houses. All the staff houses will be up for sale in the near future.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Supplementary To Question 186-13(3): Purchase Of GNWT Staff Housing

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has come to my attention that in the community of Igloodik there are eight GNWT staff housing units empty but heated. At the same time, the government is renting units to house government employees. Can the Minister explain the reason for this arrangement and the economics of this? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 186-13(3): Purchase Of GNWT Staff Housing

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, we are looking into this right now. The staff houses that are empty are up for sale. There are 21 people who are interested in buying these homes and I feel they will be bought in the very near future. We don't want to give them to the local housing associations because these are going to be purchased personally. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Supplementary To Question 186-13(3): Purchase Of GNWT Staff Housing

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) In Hall Beach there has been an agreement reached with the housing association there and the district NWT Housing Corporation office, whereby they will be given the authority to take over the responsibility of the GNWT staff housing units. Now they have been told that, because of the different funding, those units will not be available. Could the Minister explain why this has happened after the agreement was made?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minster of Housing, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 186-13(3): Purchase Of GNWT Staff Housing

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

(Translation) I will have to come back with that answer.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

It hasn't been taken as notice. Mr. Arlooktoo.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I would rather that I research the issue and pass the information on to the Member as soon as possible so he gets the information sooner.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 187-13(3): Information On Negotiated And Sole-Source Contracts

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and thank the chairman of the FMBS for providing me the contract reports for the first, second and third quarters of 1995-96. Mr. Speaker, however, the listing provided does not tell me what were negotiated contracts and what were sole-source contracts. Will the Premier provide this information?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 187-13(3): Information On Negotiated And Sole-Source Contracts

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I made a commitment in this House to table negotiated contracts. If the Member has any specific contract he would like or needs information on, I would be happy to share that with him. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 187-13(3): Information On Negotiated And Sole-Source Contracts

**MR. PICCO:**

Mr. Speaker, I think the point I'm trying to make here through my line of questioning over the last couple of weeks is that public money has to be accountable to the public, and that includes all government contracts, wages, benefits, the whole nine yards. So there's not an individual contract. I would like to see the tabling which we see here, but it doesn't tell me what's negotiated and what's sole-source because, as you can see, it would take me six months to go through all that. So I would like to know what's negotiated and what's sole-source, and can the Premier provide that information. That is my question again.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 187-13(3): Information On Negotiated And Sole-Source Contracts

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, for one, fully understand and fully appreciate that the public should know how the government spends its money. That is why you have a contract report that is available to the public for \$9, the price of printing, so the public does know how we spend our money.

I would like to clarification from the Member, if he's talking about every local authority purchase order, whether it be for a box of pens or a sheet of paper or two, or what does he really want for information and to what degree of information does the Member want, Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Mr. Speaker, I don't know how much clearer I can get. Sorry.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister is asking a question. I turned to the Member to respond, but it's still oral questions. Mr. Picco, clarification.

**MR. PICCO:**

Mr. Speaker, I just want to ask you, does this mean I'm going to lose one of my supplementary questions?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Picco, I asked for clarification. That's not a supplementary.

**MR. PICCO:**

The answer to the Premier is no, that's not what I'm looking for.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Picco, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 187-13(3): Information On Negotiated And Sole-Source Contracts

**MR. PICCO:**

Mr. Speaker, I'm not asking these questions for PR purposes or to pursue a vendetta. During my campaign I said that the government had to be accountable, thus this line of questioning. My supplementary question for the Premier is can he provide the list of contracts and tell me are they negotiated or sole-source over \$5,000. I can't make it any clearer, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 187-13(3): Information On Negotiated And Sole-Source Contracts

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now it's clear. Yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions,

Point Of Order

**MR. PICCO:**

Mr. Speaker, so it's clear, does that mean yes, he will publish them?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

That wasn't a point of order. Your final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 187-13(3): Information On Negotiated And Sole-Source Contracts

**MR. PICCO:**

Mr. Speaker, sorry. My final supplementary: Will the Premier table in this House a list of all negotiated and sole-source contracts by identifying them as such, over \$5,000?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 187-13(3): Information On Negotiated And Sole-Source Contracts

**HON. DON MORIN:**



Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said previously and I'll say it again, I will provide the Member with the information he is requesting. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

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Question 188-13(3): Impact Of Lower Water Levels On Power Rates

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. Last autumn, a notice was circulated in Yellowknife that the water levels were very low, and that if precipitation over the winter did not raise levels, we could face a rate increase in power costs. We didn't get a lot of snow, so I think the water levels have not raised. I recollect that we've had, I believe, two rate increases in the last two or three years in Yellowknife and it has been financially pressing on businesses that consume a lot of power, and home owners. I wonder if the Minister could tell me whether a rate increase is planned soon for Yellowknife residents.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 188-13(3): Impact Of Lower Water Levels On Power Rates

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Snare Hydro plants serve Yellowknife, and the watershed area for that system is about 15,000 square kilometres. Since it extends up to 200 kilometres north and east of the Snare River, the conditions there are not necessarily those that we've seen in Yellowknife.

The corporation measures the snow pack in February and in April each year in the watershed to gauge what the likely run-off will be. This year, the gauging showed that the snowfall was about average in comparison to the past 18 years. By average, I mean the water content in the snow that fell over the winter.

We don't really know, though, until the spring run-off is complete, how much of that will end up in the

reservoir. So the best indicator of what the condition in the reservoir will be won't be known until late June. So it's impossible to predict, at this point in time, whether or not there will be another low-water year in the Snare system and impossible to say whether or not there will be a need for a rate increase because of that low water.

I should advise the Member that the Public Utilities Board has advised the corporation that they will not consider a short-term rate increase in the future, and that a rate stabilization fund must be created for the Yellowknife zone. So any rates that we see will be permanent rates that will be set through the Public Utilities Board process from this time on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 188-13(3): Impact Of Lower Water Levels On Power Rates

**MR. OOTES:**

In the event that rates are increased, could the Minister advise if this will affect rates across the Northwest Territories?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 188-13(3): Impact Of Lower Water Levels On Power Rates

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, subject to Public Utilities Board direction, each generating zone in the Northwest Territories is to provide information to the Public Utilities Board on what the cost of power is in each zone, then the rates are to be set on a cost recovery basis. So the rates for the Yellowknife zone, which would include Rae-Edzo, Dettah and Yellowknife, will be on their own. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 188-13(3): Impact Of Lower Water Levels On Power Rates

**MR. OOTES:**

Are the rates in the Yellowknife zone higher than other zones in the Territories?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 188-13(3): Impact Of Lower Water Levels On Power Rates

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't believe the rates in the Yellowknife zone are any higher than some other communities. They will be higher than some and lower than others. The detail of the rates in each different zone, I don't have at my fingertips. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 188-13(3): Impact Of Lower Water Levels On Power Rates

**MR. OOTES:**

I wonder if the Minister could get me the rates for the different zones.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 188-13(3): Impact Of Lower Water Levels On Power Rates

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to provide that information.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 189-13(3): Policy For Selection Of Architectural And Engineering Services

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Transportation. Yesterday in the House, the Minister stated the reason for not allowing

ABT to bid on a contract in our area was due to a policy for the selections of architectural and engineering services. I would then ask the Minister if the policy he is referring to in the Department of Public Works and Services is document 20-6 titled: "The Selections of Architectural and Engineering Services" dated March 31, 1985.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

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Return To Question 189-13(3): Policy For Selection Of Architectural And Engineering Services

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the honourable Member, Mr. Rabesca, asked a question in the House concerning the procedures used by the department to call for proposals and award contracts to engineering consulting firms for work on highways. I mentioned a policy that the department uses. The Department of Public Works and Services' directive and procedures document 20-6 is the directive that is used for selection of architectural and engineering services. This policy has been in place for over 10 years, since 1985, and has been widely accepted. Furthermore, Public Works and Services, the NWT Housing Corporation and the Department of Transportation all apply the same procedures. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Rabesca.

**MR. RABESCA:**

Since this is a DPW document, why would it state, and I quote page 5, section 2: "The Government of the NWT business incentive policy does not apply to the hiring of architects and engineers."

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Member is referring to a particular section of a directive. I would like to request that he rephrase his question, so I can fully understand what he is getting at.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Rabesca.

Supplementary To Question 189-13(3): Policy For Selection Of Architectural And Engineering Services

**MR. RABESCA:**

I will repeat my question. Mr. Speaker, referring to the document, on the one page I referred to it says, "The Government of the NWT business incentive policy does not apply to the hiring of architects and engineers."

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is asking for a technical question, so I will have to take this question as notice and get back to him at a later time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 190-13(3): Use Of Federal Funding For Nunavut

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance in his role as chairman to the Cabinet Committee on Division. In recent days, there has been extensive dialogue regarding negotiations with the federal government on the issue of incremental funding in the establishment of Nunavut. Mr. Irwin has identified an amount of \$150 million. I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister can identify whether or not this government has established who will expend this money, including the cost of the interim Commissioner and its source of funding.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 190-13(3): Use Of Federal Funding For Nunavut

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The \$150 million/\$117 million -- I am going to keep saying that -- that has been identified by the federal government is broken down, Mr. Speaker, in a variety of areas. Some are in the transition and operational costs like an interim Commission or the Nunavut election and electoral boundaries. There are other areas broken down in minor capital housing, infrastructure and some federal government departments. Of course, there is the capital component to it. Again, it is a good question my colleague asks and I appreciate it. I think after this weekend, once we have spent some time in Arviat with the federal Minister and with NTI, we will be in a better position to be able to debate and get more information on where and how this money is going to be spent and who is going to spend it. For example, my colleague, Mr. Dent, and the Cabinet believes that we should take the lead on training in partnership with NTI. We are optimistic and enthusiastic that we can reach that arrangement with them this weekend. So it may be that NTI and the Department of Education leads in education.

It is a good question. It is slightly premature at this time, but hopefully by the weekend we should have a clearer understanding of who is doing what and whether there is sufficient money in each of these categories to meet the expenditures that we expect will take place with respect to the transitional costs of Nunavut. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 191-13(3): Application Of Article 24 Of Nunavut Final Agreement

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for Public Works and Services. Mr. Speaker, the current business incentive policy of this government does not recognize bed and breakfasts as commercial accommodations. Therefore, these businesses do not meet the criteria to qualify to hold commercial licences as hotels and motels. However, Mr. Speaker, article 24.3.5 of the agreement between the Inuit of Nunavut settlement area and Her Majesty the Queen, the Government of Canada, states: "Recruitment policies and implementing measures shall be carried out in a manner that responds to the developing nature of the Nunavut settlement area, economy and labour force. In particular, the policy shall take into account

increased ability over time of Inuit firms to compete for and to successfully complete government contracts."

I believe, Mr. Speaker, this government is not about to override the Constitution of this country. Therefore, my question to the honourable Minister is will the government honour the Nunavut agreement and allow contractors and government employees to use Inuit-owned bed and breakfasts in Nunavut.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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Return To Question 191-13(3): Application Of Article 24 Of Nunavut Final Agreement

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct that the NFA requires that this government maintain procurement policies in the Nunavut region. When the Member raised the issue last month about bed and breakfasts being allowed in the business incentive policy, I went back to the Department of Public Works and instructed them to look into the possibility of changing that. So in as many cases as possible, bed and breakfasts will be part of the business incentive policy.

However, I have not had a chance to review with the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism what the results have been. We are looking into that.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 191-13(3): Application Of Article 24 Of Nunavut Final Agreement

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since this government respects the Constitution of this country and respects the agreement between the Nunavut settlement area, in this case, NTI, and the federal government, how soon will the Minister move to honour article 24 to allow Inuit-owned businesses to have guests in their bed and breakfasts. How soon will the government move to allow that? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 191-13(3): Application Of Article 24 Of Nunavut Final Agreement

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if the Nunavut final agreement specifically spells out bed and breakfasts. I don't believe it does. However, the spirit and intent of the agreement is to increase the participation of Inuit in the economy and businesses, which is the reason why the government announced the policy yesterday. The policy is in effect immediately; the particular issue about bed and breakfasts is being reviewed, along with a full review of the business incentive policy. So hopefully within the next few weeks, we should be coming up with an answer. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Ningark, supplementary.

Item 6, oral questions. Mr.

Supplementary To Question 191-13(3): Application Of Article 24 Of Nunavut Final Agreement

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, does "Inuit firms" not specifically mean bed and breakfasts owned and operated by Inuit people?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 191-13(3): Application Of Article 24 Of Nunavut Final Agreement

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, if I got the question the Member is asking, the business incentive policy and article 24 are for all beneficiaries of the new Nunavut land claim.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 191-13(3): Application Of Article 24 Of Nunavut Final Agreement

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has stated that it means all businesses owned by the...(inaudible)...service. In this case, we have a situation in Gjoa Haven that this government does not allow the contractor taking contracts under this government to stay in that bed and breakfast unless the commercial hotel in the community is full. Thereby, the government should honour article 24 and allow the employees of this government to stay in the bed and breakfast in that community. Does the government recognize that fact? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 191-13(3): Application Of Article 24 Of Nunavut Final Agreement

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, as I said before, we will live up to our obligations under article 24 of the Nunavut final agreement. As I stated yesterday, we will do everything we can to increase the participation of Inuit in businesses, whether they are contracting or other areas. On the specific issue of bed and breakfasts, I will state again, I am looking into that along with the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 192-13(3): Regulations Re Sulphur Dioxide Emissions

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the Minister of Renewable Resources indicated in a statement that the Department of Renewable Resources was drafting regulations to which Giant would have to modernize its equipment and move to a method of extracting gold from the ore in a more economic way and that provides for less pollution in the environment. In fact, he stated that in the next 10 years, Giant would have to cut out emissions by 90 per cent. What would Giant have to do in order to cut its emissions by 90 per cent and to comply with these. new regulations?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 192-13(3): Regulations Re Sulphur Dioxide Emissions

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the method by which Giant extracts gold from the ore that they mine is a

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method that is used practically nowhere else in Canada. That is the method that they have used since they have started operating a few decades ago. Other mines have a more modern and efficient way of extracting gold from the ore, such as Miramar Con Mine. Giant has said that they have enough reserve to allow them to operate for another seven years for sure. Beyond that, they are uncertain. They have been saying that for the last 20 years. It is our view that they cannot continue operating under the present mode of operation indefinitely. At some time in the future, they have to take account that the profits they are making should be used in part to change the present mode of operation, so as to reduce dramatically the level of emission of sulphur dioxide that they are emitting presently. That is what we were trying to say. Other than that, if the Member requires more information, I would require some assistance to prepare a technical description of the exact mode of operation that I am referring to. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 192-13(3): Regulations Re Sulphur Dioxide Emissions

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If Giant Mine has proven reserves for only seven years, what good is it to ask them to cut their emissions 10 years from now? That seems like a complete waste of time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 192-13(3): Regulations Re Sulphur Dioxide Emissions

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that. The fact is, they have said the mine has been operating marginally at times,

and we do not want to introduce laws or regulations that could force the owners to cease operation of that mine. The intent is to give sufficient time to the owners and operators, and to give them a very clear message that they cannot continue operating indefinitely under the present mode of operation, and that we give them sufficient notice that they have to plan to change their mode of operation if they're going to continue operating well into the next few decades. That is the approach we are taking. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could Giant cut their emissions by 90 per cent for less than \$10 million?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Erasmus, that is a hypothetical question. It wouldn't be in the Minister's knowledge to respond. Could you rephrase your question?

Supplementary To Question 192-13(3): Regulations Re Sulphur Dioxide Emissions

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand that Giant Mine made a profit of over \$10 million last year, and I also understand that, to this point this year, they've already produced 500 ounces of gold more than they did at this point last year. It seems to me that this company is making ample money out of this operation. Can the

Minister explain why, since this is the case, the mine can't implement this new process within five years or three years, perhaps?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus, again, the Minister could choose to answer it if he wishes to, but the Minister isn't a mine inspector or doesn't have knowledge of how these mines operate in order to make profits, nor does he know their costs of operation. I would like to say if you're asking for information, Mr. Erasmus, perhaps the Minister might be able to find the answers and provide that information. Mr. Kakfwi, do you wish to respond?

Further Return To Question 192-13(3): Regulations Re Sulphur Dioxide Emissions

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, it is probably worthwhile to point out that Giant Mine has stored underground, and has been storing since 1951, tons of arsenic; 264,000 tons of arsenic are stored underground in the chambers that have been excavated. Presently, the federal government is responsible for dealing with arsenic, and officials are presently reviewing what could be done to ensure that this toxic substance is stored in a way that it would not become a public hazard in the future.

The present company -- and there have been two or three changes of ownership in the last decade -- is watching that, I'm sure very carefully, to see what liabilities may result from that particular exercise. We have no interest in doing anything that would cause the owners to consider ceasing operations at Giant.

I share, with all Members, the deep concern for the environment. I have deep concern for the health of people. I also have a deep concern that we act responsibly in a way that does not disrupt the rather fragile economy of the city of Yellowknife and of this area in general. Having said that, it has been a great number of years that this government has existed and has not acted to do anything in coming up with guidelines or enforceable regulations to direct Giant to change their mode of operation or to govern themselves accordingly. It is this government and this Minister that has initiated initial moves to address that problem, and we're trying to do it in a way that respects the various interests of the parties involved. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus, final supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 192-13(3): Regulations Re Sulphur Dioxide Emissions

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The way the regulations are being drafted, would Giant Mine have to do anything before 10 years or do we have to wait until the 10 years are up? Can they just do the thing in the final year, or do they have to do anything before that?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

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Further Return To Question 192-13(3): Regulations  
Re Sulphur Dioxide Emissions

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, under whatever results from the review and initiation by the federal government regarding the arsenic emissions, I'm uncertain as to what will be required in the future. But on the sulphur dioxide emissions, they are enforceable and we have given Giant 10 years to reduce their rate of emission. So they have up to 10 years to do that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Again, to remind the Members that when you address the chair, it's Mr. Speaker. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 193-13(3): Transfer Of Occupational Health  
And Safety

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Todd. There has been much concern expressed about the transfer of occupational health and safety to the WCB. Could the Minister inform this House who proposed this transfer, and when?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 193-13(3): Transfer Of  
Occupational Health And Safety

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My honourable colleague is correct, there has been considerable discussion on the transfer of occupational health and safety. If you will allow me, I think it's very important to clarify, not only for the Members but for the public at large, a bit of history on this issue, and I do appreciate the question. Both Mr. Antoine and myself met with the Operations committee and tried to explain this issue in detail. We pointed out at the time that this issue is not a new issue. In fact, I did some more research

after the Government Operations committee meeting, and I found out that the transfer of occupational health and safety to WCB has been around for over 10 years, since 1986. The government presented a paper on the review of the WCB by Ms. Letha McLaughlan, who is now the chairperson of the EARP panel, and raised the potential of that option of transferring it in 1986.

In 1991-92, the Standing Committee on Finance recommended -- in recommendation number 62 -- that the government expedite the transfer of the occupational health and safety to the Workers' Compensation Board in the interest of workers and employers.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Hear! Hear!

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

In 1992, the Agencies, Boards and Commissions committee of this House held public hearings in which those who are now raising the issue were present and made presentations to that committee, and all stakeholders were involved including the NWT Construction Association, Chamber of Mines, unions and individuals. Some members of the stakeholders group indicated at that

time some support for the transfer of occupational health and safety.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, at that time, also recommended that this should take place. There was, of course, in fairness, some opposition to it, but I think it's important to give some history.

So, Mr. Speaker, in short, there has been considerable history about this transfer. There has, in fact, been significant public debate, albeit it was done in 1992. In fact, the stakeholder groups at that time who are now concerned about this were very, very active. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Picco, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 193-13(3): Transfer Of  
Occupational Health And Safety

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I enjoyed the history lesson. I appreciate the research the Minister must have had done to find that answer. Mr. Speaker, my second question would be maybe the Minister could then inform this House why this transfer was proposed and the reasons for it; the transfer of occupational health and safety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 193-13(3): Transfer Of Occupational Health And Safety

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

The reasons for the transfer, Mr. Speaker, are consistent with the reasons in 1986, 1991 and then in 1992. That is, the transfer allows for the consolidation of all the programs that provide safety services for the workers to a single organization. It allows for a one window approach to the workplace, and allows for related programs -- in my opinion, and I think in the opinion of Cabinet and others -- for a better approach to safety education programs. It's an amalgamated approach, Mr. Speaker.

I think it would also be fair to say that, in the transitional document from the previous Assembly that they prepared for this Assembly to consider, it was one of the deficit elimination proposals put forward. So I would be remiss if I didn't say that it's also part of our strategy to reduce the deficit, Mr. Speaker. But it's simply not an off-loading of fiscal responsibility from this government. It's more an approach to ensure that those who are directly involved in the payment of pensions and benefits to injured workers are more active in the safety of injured workers and, hopefully, ultimately save everybody lots of injuries and money. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you.

Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

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Supplementary To Question 193-13(3): Transfer Of Occupational Health And Safety

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it's fair to say that some of the problems concerning this transfer are because this government did not consult the stakeholders very well. Maybe the Minister could inform this House what the status of this transfer is at the present time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 193-13(3): Transfer Of Occupational Health And Safety

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

The status of the transfer is that the transfer has taken place in terms of the financial responsibility. I believe we presented a case where we were going to phase the \$2.1 million in over a three-year period. I believe that has taken place. The responsibility for supervising staff has taken place. I don't know if they've physically moved, in terms of offices. I guess we could say it's up and fully operational under the Workers' Compensation Board, both financially and managerially. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Again, just to caution the Members with regard to continuing the questions regarding the amalgamation of occupational health and safety, it's in Bill 10. I would like to remind the Members that they can't pre-empt what's in front of the committee. Just to caution the Members on that. Your final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 193-13(3): Transfer Of Occupational Health And Safety

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you mentioned about the bill, if this legislation and the amalgamation occurs, could the Minister provide information on the impact of this amalgamation on WCB rates for companies and/or benefits to the workers?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

It's a hypothetical question, it's out of order. You can't pre-empt a bill that's still in committee. "What if," or "if;" that's hypothetical.

--- Ruled Out of Order



Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister who I want to ask the question to ... Can I ask my question anyway?

--- Interjection

Question 194-13(3): Transfer Of Programs And Facilities To Municipalities

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Approximately three years ago, a Minister of this government was in Hay River and at a public meeting had indicated that the territorial government would recognize more than the municipal council as the official government in Hay River -I referred to this in my Member's statement -- where, in

communities like Hay River, you have band councils, hamlet councils, town councils, Metis councils. What is the position of this government in recognizing municipal governments with respect to the transfer of programs and facilities? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take that question as notice on behalf of the Minister so we can get a very detailed answer for the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 195-13(3): Application Of Negotiated Contract Policy Outside Nunavut Area

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Minister of Public Works and Services announced a negotiated contract policy for the Nunavut area. I wonder if the Minister could advise us if that policy would also apply to outside the Nunavut area; for instance, in my area.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 195-13(3): Application Of Negotiated Contract Policy Outside Nunavut Area

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, the negotiated contracts policy is the same all across the Territories, except for the Nunavut area where we have an additional condition which is additional support for negotiated contracts and a 2 1 -day waiting period. The original conditions for negotiated contracts remain the same for the rest of the territory.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Question period is over. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to return to oral questions.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Nunakput is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Do we have any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Steen. Item 6, oral questions.

**REVERT TO ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 196-13(3): Application Of Negotiated Contract Policy Outside Nunavut Area

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm still not quite clear from the Minister of Public Works and Services. I'm referring to the suggested new policy for negotiated contracts that he identified yesterday. It suggested that it would be towards the Nunavut area. Was that new policy going to be applied to my area or anywhere else in the Territories? I believe he said it was in effect immediately.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 196-13(3): Application Of Negotiated Contract Policy Outside Nunavut Area

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, the three basic conditions for negotiated contracts are that they be cost effective, that they have the support of the community and that they use northerners in the contract. That is the same all across the Territories, East and West. What we announced yesterday is, in addition to those conditions for the Nunavut settlement area, we will now require a 21-day waiting period where we will advertise the intent to go to negotiated contracts and give other qualified Inuit firms time to express interest and participate in those contracts.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 196-13(3): Application Of Negotiated Contract Policy Outside Nunavut Area

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I am referring to the 21-day clause he is referring to. Would that apply in my region as well? For instance, if an Inuvialuit group is requesting a negotiated contract, would the 21 days apply in that instance?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The question was taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 197-13(3): Redirection Of Capital Funds For Yellowknife

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier on today, I incorrectly identified Sir John Franklin High School in Yellowknife as having an occupancy of 99.29 per cent. That occupancy is, in fact, in the 83 per cent area. I would apologize for any problem that may have caused.

My question is to the Minister of Education. I would like to know, would it not make more sense to appropriate some of the capital funds that have been earmarked for school renovations in other

communities which, in some cases, have a 38 per cent occupancy, and redirect some of these funds to Yellowknife boards that are presently well above the department's 85 per cent level for new premises. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 197-13(3): Redirection Of Capital Funds For Yellowknife

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated yesterday when we were discussing this issue in Committee of the Whole, the approach that the department takes on capital projects now is to take a look at

providing one school space per student in each community when deciding that a construction project must proceed. The other rankings that I indicated yesterday had to do with ongoing construction projects being completed and then projects were ranked for continuation according to health and safety issues, space shortfalls and other priorities subsequent to that. The Member has indicated that renovations are being done in a school in the Northwest Territories. I would have to look at which project the Member refers to in order to advise as to the reasons that project is proceeding. I would assume that based on the rankings, school utilization was not one of the factors that was a high priority there, so we aren't filling a space shortfall problem but some other reason must exist for that project to be going ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 198-13(3): Status Of Contract

Negotiations

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister of NTPC please update this House on the status of the contract negotiations with the bargaining unit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Minister of NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 198-13(3): Status Of Contract Negotiations

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that the first round of negotiations has concluded. I understand that they went very well, but the negotiations have adjourned until July, then they will proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 199-13(3): Report To House On Nunavut Leaders' Summit

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, the Premier and Nunavut Caucus will shortly be leaving for an important meeting in Arviat, to discuss with the federal government funding for the creation of Nunavut. I am wondering if the Premier has plans to report the outcome of these meetings to this House, possibly Monday or Tuesday.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 199-13(3): Report To House On Nunavut Leaders' Summit

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will do that for sure. It will be my pleasure to do that.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 200-13(3): Speaker's Vacant Seat In Chamber

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Finance because it has to do with

dollars. Last week, I had a friend who was sitting in the gallery. I had an opportunity to meet with him this weekend. He asked me what this vacant seat between the honourable Members, Mr. Dent and Mrs. Groenewegen, was for. So I explained that that seat was the seat you had occupied before you were elected Speaker. He said he was very happy to hear that. He thought maybe that was a separation between the rich and the poor.

--- Laughter

--- Applause

--- Interjection

**MR. SPEAKER:**

There was no question there. Can we have some order, please? Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was to the Minister of Finance. Is this statement correct?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 200-13(3): Speaker's Vacant Seat In Chamber

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Speaker, here we are all among equals; just some are more equal than others. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, replies to Budget Address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 14: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 36-13(3), Aurora College Annual Report, 1995.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 37-13(3), a letter addressed to myself, as the Minister of Renewable Resources, from the acting deputy minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. McLeod, reporting that we have put out our first fire this season three miles north of Wrigley; a fire that has been smouldering from the previous season. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 38-13(3), the Report of the Commission on MLA Compensation, prepared for the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, dated March 4, 1996.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 39-13(3), a letter written from the Gjoa Haven Justice Committee to the mayor of Gjoa Haven pertaining to the community justice system. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 40-13(3), which is from Yellowknife taxpayers whose children attend Yellowknife schools. They are protesting two issues which are the inequitable treatment in taxation and financing between school boards in Yellowknife and those in other regions of the NWT, and the lack of funds provided to the city schools for educating students that come to the city temporarily from settlements and attend our city schools.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 14, tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION**

Motion 6-13(3): Referring MLA Compensation Commission Report To Committee Of The Whole

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, May 10th, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Tabled Document 38-13(3), the Report of the Commission on MLA Compensation, dated March 4, 1996, be moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 15, notices of motion. Mr. Picco.

Motion 7-13(3): Public Disclosure Of Contracts And Public Sector Salaries

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 10th, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that this Legislative Assembly request the Executive Council to consider amending the Financial Administration Act to require the reporting in the public accounts of all sole-source and negotiated contracts in those amounts of \$5,000 or more in a fiscal year; and further, that the Executive Council table, on an annual basis, a list of all contracts entered into by the Government of the Northwest Territories in those amounts of \$5,000 or more in a fiscal year; and furthermore, that the Executive Council consider introducing legislation that would require the public disclosure of the salary and benefits paid in respect of employment in the public sector to employees who receive remuneration of more than \$100,000 a year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. 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. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 11, petitions.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 11, petitions. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Dent.

REVERT TO ITEM 11: PETITIONS

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present Petition No. 15-13(3) dealing with the matter of compensation for MLAs. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 24 signatures and, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that Members of the Legislative Assembly publicly review the Report of the Commission on MLA Compensation. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 11, petitions. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 11, Appropriation Act, 1996-97; Committee Report 1-13(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 1996-97 Main Estimates; Committee Report 2-13(3), Standing Committee on Infrastructure Report on the Review of the 1996-97 Main Estimates; Committee Report 3-13(3), Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development Report on the Review of the 1996-97 Main Estimates; Committee Report 4-13(3), Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the Review of the 1996-97 Main Estimates, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

I would like to call the committee to order. Yesterday, we were considering Bill 11 and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. I believe we were ready to pass from general comments to line by line. What is the wish of the committee?

--- Interjection

Bill 11: Appropriation Act, 1996-97

Department Of Education, Culture And Employment

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

So you would like to proceed? We will take a short break to allow the Minister to bring his witnesses in.

--- SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Mr. Minister, please introduce your witnesses for the record.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. On my left is the acting deputy minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Eric Colbourne; and, on my right, the director of finance and administration, Mr. Paul Devitt.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. I understood before the break that we were moving on from general comments to detail. Is everyone agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Directorate And Administration

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Could I then direct your attention, please, to page 14-12, the activities summary? Directorate and administration, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$4.34 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Culture And Careers

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Culture and careers, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$104.13 million. Mr. Enuaraq.

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I wanted to make a statement on page 14-13, if you would allow me, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chairperson, I have had a chance to review the report of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services from the previous Legislative Assembly. I know that Mr. Dent is very familiar with this report, having been the chair of that very important committee, so I do not need to repeat the recommendations for Mr. Dent's sake.

However, Madam Chairperson, I believe it is important to note that the report paid special attention to the situation of elders. When the committee toured the Keewatin region, they noted in their third interim report that, "Many elders also talked about the enormous burden of trying to care for themselves on the pensions which they receive, due to the high local cost of food and other goods. They described the frustration at being unable to care for dependent children or to feed visiting grandchildren. With little money and no longer being able to hunt, they told us how it is difficult to provide for themselves, let alone other family members in need." That was on page 3 of the interim report of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, Interim Report No. 3, dated December 1992.

Yesterday, Madam Chairperson, in my Member's statement - I believe it was yesterday or the day before -- I point out how the territorial seniors' supplement has not been increased since 1992, even though the cost of living has increased at least seven per cent in Yellowknife since that time, and I believe it has increased even more in the communities I represent.

I wish to recite recommendation number 21 of the final report of the Special Committee. It states as follows: \*The adequacy of our income support payments to elders should

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be reviewed. These payments should more accurately reflect the high cost of living in the North and the changing cost between communities. This review should examine the programs operated by the governments of both the Territories and Canada." I have a question, Madam Chairperson. I would like to ask the honourable Minister whether such a review was ever carried out by this government.

My second question, Madam Chairperson: Does the Minister agree that such a review would be timely now?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Minister Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. As the Member indicates, I am somewhat familiar with the recommendations of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. The Member refers to the income supplement for elderly people in the Territories, and I can confirm that examination of that supplement is one aspect of the overall review of income support which is currently under way. We plan to present to Cabinet and committee, by June, a revised income support program proposal, and this proposal will, as one of its parts or one of its goals, ensure that we support seniors and disabled to live independently. So, when the Member asks if the government has reviewed this program, I can say that it isn't being done in isolation, but it is being reviewed as part of the overall redefining of our income support programs. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Enuaraq.

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a motion. I wish to make the following motion: I move that this committee recommends to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment that the adequacy of income support payments of elders be reviewed, with a view to ensuring that it reflects the current cost of living in the Northwest Territories, and further, that the Government of Canada also be encouraged to conduct a similar review of its own program payments.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Do you have a copy of that for us for translation purposes?

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

I have one copy here. Madam Chairperson, I would also like to speak to the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

I'll need to see a copy of that first. Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Your motion is in order but we will need to take a short break to have it translated and circulated to all Members. So we will recess for 15 minutes.

--- SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

I think everyone has a copy of this motion. Should Mr. Enuaraq read the motion? For the record, could you please read the motion again. Mr. Enuaraq.

Committee Motion 4-13(3): To Recommend To Review

Adequacy Of Income Support Payments To Elders, Carried

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment that the adequacy of income support payments to elders be reviewed, with a view to ensuring that it reflects the current cost of living in the Northwest Territories.

And further, that the Government of Canada also be encouraged to conduct a similar review of its own program payments.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. To the motion. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) I don't think we have a quorum.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

There is no quorum. The chair recognizes a quorum. To the motion. Mr. Enuaraq, do you have anything to say to the motion?

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I will speak to the motion if I am allowed. I believe that after over three years since their last increase, even in these times of financial restraint, we should support at least keeping up with the cost of living for the territorial seniors' supplement. Also, I do not believe that it is fair that seniors in all parts of the NWT should be paid the same amount of money for the territorial seniors'

supplement. Even the old-age pension itself, regardless of great differences in the cost of living ... We adjust social assistance payments according to the cost of living. We adjust settlement allowances for employees according to the cost of living. We adjust grants to municipalities according to the cost of living. These variations in the cost of living are another reason for reviewing the adequacy of income support payments to elders.

As far as the territorial seniors' supplement is concerned, I do not need to repeat my Member's statement that I made a few days ago. The bottom line, Madam Chair, is that this amount has not changed since 1992. There are about 1,500 seniors in all parts of the NWT who are very much depending on those monthly payments. They are the seniors who need it the most, since they are either widows or widowers, or people on old-age pension who require the guaranteed income supplement because the pension is the only income they get. My personal hope is that the review will indicate that the monthly supplement should be increased by at least \$10 to reflect increases in the cost of living since it was last reviewed.

I would also hope that, even in these difficult times, our government could find a way to support these valued and respected citizens in our communities. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. To the motion. Mr. Erasmus.

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**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to speak in favour of this motion. The seniors in the Northwest Territories have worked hard for many, many years and it is only fitting that they receive an increase and that the increase should reflect the increase in the cost of living since the last increase in their supplementary pensions that the GNWT provides. Most elders I know have to live on a fixed income and they now have to pay for many things that they didn't have to pay for prior to this budget. I believe it is only fitting that we help them to be able to pay for these increased costs that we are making them pay for since this budget was introduced. As I said, most elders I know are living on a fixed income; they have no other income other than these pensions. As I said before, I speak in favour of this motion.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Did you have anything further, Mr. Erasmus?

**MR. ERASMUS:**

I just wanted to indicate that if there are no other speakers, perhaps we could vote on the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. To the motion. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I wish to call question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

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

--- Carried

Culture and careers, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$104.13 million.  
Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Madam Chair, the culture and careers branch provides a broad range of programs and services related to culture, arts, heritage, museums, language, career development, employment development, support programs to colleges, continuing education and income support. Madam Chair, under operations and maintenance, salaries and wages, the Language Bureau. There has been, for example, in the Nunavut region, only one French translator who lost their position through downsizing.

Madam Chair, my question to the Minister is how can the Minister rectify this situation when we do not have French translation services available anywhere in the Nunavut region.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Minister Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm having some difficulty answering the Member's specific question because under the language bureau, in this budget, in comparison to the 1995-96 main estimates, there has been no reduction of a French translator. We have

deleted two PYs in the language bureau: one was a clerk typist position and the other two were .5 PYs, one in the Dene language and one in Inuktitut. So I am at a loss to answer the Member's question,

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Madam Chair, the position was one PY in the language bureau based in Iqaluit, which was the French translation position for the entire Nunavut region. As the Minister is aware, we have a large French population in Iqaluit. That is the position that I am speaking about. I also understand, Madam Chair, that that position is paid for by and cost shared with the federal government through the French language and language enhancement program of the federal government, which is a cost-shared program between the GNWT and the federal government. Therefore, I don't see why this PY was eliminated.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Minister Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. The budget before you right now doesn't show any cuts to positions like the one the Member is referring to. This cut may have happened in the previous year and it would have been a result of vote 4/5 funding being reduced through the official languages agreement with Canada. Those positions that were reduced were 100 per cent funded by Canada and were not cost shared by this government. So it isn't a reduction that falls under this budget. There is no reduction planned under this budget for that type of position.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Madam Chair, the position was effective April 1, 1996, which would be in this fiscal year. The person was given a 90-day notice until June 30th, like all the other layoffs. It was around the lay-offs that were announced effective April 1st. The position was a fully-funded position within the language bureau of the GNWT, as I understand it. If the Minister doesn't have clarification right now, I would ask the Minister to get



back to the committee on this point some time in the future.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Does the Minister wish to respond to that?

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Madam Chair, the cut the Member is referring to may be a result of earlier cuts. It isn't one that we show in this budget or in the lay-off list that I have for people who would be on the payroll for this budget. We will have to look into it and get back to the Member as to the specific position he is referring to.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I have the same problem as Mr. Picco. I had a person laid off in my region and I think that was the only translator we had for the Inuvialuktun language working for the government. People were very concerned as to the indication this suggested on support to keep the aboriginal languages going. As you know, Madam Chair, in my region, the languages have been fairly slaughtered in the past 20 or 30 years by the school systems. People have been hoping that the government

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would support the people in renewing this language, so it doesn't die. I think an indication from the department to lay off the only translator suggests lack of support from the department and from this government.

The other thing is we have a number of old people who can't read English. I believe this person played an important part in translating many government documents. I would like the department to reconsider, if not this year, at least next year, reinstating that position.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. In looking at the budget book, the answer to Mr. Picco's question may lie on page 14-33, which is work performed on behalf of third parties. You will notice under official languages, French, there has been a significant drop in the funding the federal government is providing for French language services. That would more than likely be where the cut that Mr. Picco is referring to would have come.

As I said, that is completely funded by the federal government and not by the Government of the Northwest Territories. So what you are seeing on page 14-33 is money that comes from the federal government and is administered by this government.

In response to Mr. Steen's question, I think that we do have a priority to try to preserve the languages and cultures of the North. Members need to remember that the previous agreement with Canada for official languages totalled \$38 million over three years. The current agreement is for \$18 million over three years. That is \$20 million we lost in that agreement over three years. Because of the timing when that agreement was reached, it was more than half-way through the first year. So a good portion of that \$18 million was used up in the first year of the agreement and in years two and three, we are having to take significantly bigger cuts because the previous government was not prepared for the magnitude of the cuts that were to come. As it stands, today we have far less money that is coming to us for official languages from the federal government. Given that, I would note the efforts the department has gone through to take person year cuts at the administration level and the efforts we have done to try to minimize the numbers of teaching positions across the North being cut.

You will see that in the language bureau, the effort is to make as few cuts as possible. Unfortunately, we have very limited funds for official languages in comparison to previous years. Regarding the two half positions that were eliminated, we didn't have much in the way of a choice. I recognize the Member's concern and we will do what we can to re-examine the situation but we are facing some real difficulty delivering services in the way that we did, given the funding that is available. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Given the information that is on page 14-33, why did you cut the

position in the largest French community in the Northwest Territories? How many positions do we have for French language programs in Yellowknife?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't have the answer the Member wants and the detail with me at this time. I will have to get back to the Member with the answer.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate the Minister not having information available at the present time. When he provides that information for me, I hope he will look at reviewing that PY position to see if we can reinstate it and maybe cut somewhere else where we have more people in that line of work and not the sufficient numbers of people who it is going to serve as we have in our region. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. We will have a look at where the person-year cuts were made and the reasons for the locations that were chosen.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. If there are no further comments, culture and careers, total operations and maintenance, \$104.13 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Page 14-14, I am going to ask Mr. Ningark to take the chair because I would like to question the Minister on an item on this page. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. We are on page 14-14, detail of capital, culture and careers, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$632,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Buildings and works, Fort Smith, total region, \$148,000. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister if he is aware of the ... Let me back up. The capital dollars that were allocated for the adult learning centre in Hay River were deferred from the 1996-97 capital estimates to future years anticipated. Is that correct?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

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**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the Member is referring to a previous five-year plan that might have been available, that is correct. The estimates are done year by year. So to say it was deferred from the estimates wouldn't necessarily be right.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister aware of the condition of the adult learning centre in Hay River?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I visited the facility on at least two occasions in the last few years.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Considering the tremendous interest in adult learning in Hay River, would the Minister concur that replacement of the existing facility in Hay River would be a priority?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, the buildings in Hay River are in very poor shape. The department has been working closely with Aurora College to address its capital needs in Hay River.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister offer me any assurances that the \$869,000 referred to for capital will be forthcoming in the next fiscal year for this project? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All funds are subject to approval by this Legislative Assembly. They can only be approved in the year in which they are intended to be spent. So I cannot guarantee any funds for future years.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any alternatives open to Hay River, other than capital funding, that could see a project undertaken sooner than there would be capital dollars available? I am referring to an allocation under operations and maintenance whereby the facilities could be obtained on a long-term lease basis.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The college does, in some circumstances, lease space. Each individual proposal is considered on its own merits. The college, with Public Works, does an assessment as to the long-term cost and the net present value of leasing versus building their own space. So there are certainly examples where the college has entered into lease arrangements. Yes, there are other options.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I asked that question, I was referring specifically to proposals that have been forwarded to this government to obtain these facilities on a lease basis. I am sure the Minister is aware of those proposals. So are there O and M funds available at this time to enter into such an arrangement?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no specific budget number that I am aware of in the college contribution that would be applied to leases. It would be something that the college would have to be involved in, in making the assessment as to which way was the best to proceed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Total region, \$148,000. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our budget is laid out in 1996-97 capital expenditures and prior year costs and future years anticipated. Is there a span of a number of years that that is anticipated in?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The future years anticipated is not a set number of years. It relates to the project and the capital plan. The amount of years included in future years will vary according to the project.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does this tie into the five-year capital plan?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

It does tie into the five-year capital plan, but unless there is something planned for expenditure in 1996-97, it doesn't show up here. So, a project that's in the five-year capital plan, with no expenditures in 1996-97 but with expenditures which are planned to start in 1997-98, would not show up in this book.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Total region, \$148,000. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Mr. Chairman, just for clarification, I wonder if the Minister could explain to me, are we dealing here with buildings separate from the schools. Are we going to just address buildings that are learning centres or buildings separate from the schools, like the original school buildings?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Clarification, Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the Member is referring specifically to the fourplex adult education centre in Hay River, that is shown as a freestanding building. In other communities, we have taken other approaches and have combined learning centres with schools, and, in fact, the Fort McPherson school will have a learning centre combined with it. It tends to depend on whether there is another project in the community that we can tie it together with where it makes sense.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Total region, \$148,000. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to revisit that last question because I am not sure that I understood the Minister's answer. With specific reference to the proposals that your department has received for leased premises for an adult learning centre in Hay River, is it possible that O and M dollars could be identified by Arctic College to proceed with entering into an agreement for leased facilities during this fiscal year?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I suppose that it's possible that the College board of governors could identify funds within their budget to take on a lease. I would suspect, though, given that their funding is decreasing significantly from the department this year, that they would find it difficult to do so.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Total region, \$148,000. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The honourable Member from Yellowknife South just asked me what the difference is between an adult education centre and a community learning centre, and I couldn't adequately reply; so, could the Minister please indicate what the difference is between an adult education centre and a community learning centre?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. On the distinction of infrastructure, Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, a community learning centre is a more modern name for adult education centre.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are these buildings used in the evenings, or are they just used in the daytime from nine to five?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In general, these buildings tend to be extremely well used, probably the most efficiently-used buildings owned by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. Total region, \$148,000. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am looking on these two pages here, and I have six new fourplex or duplex community learning centres. With the financial situation that we find ourselves in this year and the cuts that have already taken place, we are going to be adding new structures that we will have to maintain and keep up. Has the Minister given a reasonable amount of consideration to how we will be able to handle the additional savings that we are going to have to find next year with these new structures that are going to have to be kept up? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Henry, are you referring to Baffin?

**MR. HENRY:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

We should deal with the Fort Smith region and you can then ask when we get to the Baffin region that same question. I will allow that, but, normally, we will go by region and when the region activity report comes up, that is when we ask the question. We haven't reached the Baffin region yet. But I will allow that; just to remind the Members. Mr. Minister.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of these buildings such as the one in Hay River are to replace existing buildings and, in fact, the O and M costs with a newer building may go down rather than go up. I am advised that the overall increase in the budget for utilities in the college's operations is in the area of \$28,000 or \$29,000 in this next fiscal year. Specifically tying that to a location would be difficult right now, but I would suggest, given the need to increase the numbers of adult people in the Northwest Territories able to get into the workforce, that these are indeed very important expenditures. Typically, in the capital program, learning centres would have taken, I believe, about 23 per cent of our budget in previous years, and this year it is down to what I think is about six per cent of the capital budget. So the adult side has taken a significantly bigger hit in this year than has the school side for capital. But I think that we have to recognize that the need is significant out there and we can't ignore it, and we need to continue working towards satisfying the need for classrooms for adults in the Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

This is Fort Smith. Total region, \$148,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you very much. Community buildings and works, Inuvik, total region, \$30,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Buildings and works, Baffin, total region, \$51,000. Mr. Enuaraq.

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**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have a question on the community learning centre for Clyde River. I would like to ask the honourable Minister when the construction is to start for that learning centre for Clyde River, and when it's to be completed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Our plan right now is to see construction started in 1997-98 and substantially completed in that year; but that is, of course, subject to approval by the Legislature.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Enuaraq.

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. By looking at 1996-97, \$14,000, is allocated there. Also, on total capital projections, \$311,000. Is that the total cost of the building?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. We are showing, yes, about \$311,000 in total for the learning centre, the furniture and equipment, at this point in time.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Enuaraq.

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I thought the number for total cost of that learning centre was a lot higher than that. I thought we agreed on an \$800,000 building. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the community and the college have met and both feel that the community does require a larger facility. We are having trouble, at this point in time, identifying the funds to provide that larger facility but, as this Member knows, I have met with him and we are working to see if we can find a solution to the problem. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Total region, buildings and works for the Baffin, \$51,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Buildings and works, Keewatin, total region, \$200,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Buildings and works, Kitikmeot, total region, \$774,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Total buildings and works, \$1.637 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$34,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Total equipment acquisition, \$34,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Contributions, headquarters, total region, \$2.7 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Contributions, Inuvik, total region, \$400,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Contributions, Baffin, total region, \$58,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Contributions,

Keewatin, total region, \$9,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Total contributions, \$3.167 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Detail of capital, culture and careers, total activity, \$4.838 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

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--- Agreed

Educational Development

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Educational development, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$1,049,425.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Buildings and works ... I should say we're on page 14-18. Buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$525,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Buildings and works, Fort Smith, total region, \$6.144 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Buildings and works, Inuvik, total region, \$898,000.  
Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I don't know if this is the proper time to bring this up but I'm going to bring it up anyway. For a number of years, Madam Chair, the Tuk school has been operating in a condemned building, for grade 11 and 12; that building was originally condemned by the Department of Public Works when it was an adult education centre. In order to speed up getting grade 11 and 12 in the community, the community agreed to try and renovate that building so that they could have grade 11 and 12 in the community rather than having to wait for the government to come forward with expansions to the school.

Over the past year, that building has been shut down a number of times for furnace smoke in the classrooms. As a matter of fact, at one point, the teachers had to leave the building until it was cleaned up because everything was covered with soot. That happened early last fall. I know the community has been after the department for some time to put a proper extension to the school in Tuk to get away from this problem. We've also been after the government to try and improve that building; if they cannot address the extension at this time, then to improve the condemned building that they're using for a school. I don't know why this department hasn't addressed that problem. Could the Minister give me some indication as to what they plan to do with that building this year? Before it burns down, could they renovate it?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Our information is that the building had been somewhat upgraded and was not in a condemned state. We will have to check

into that and, if it is, then deal with that situation. The current five-year plan shows planning starting in 1997-98, with major construction planned for 1999-2000 for a significant renovation of the school and addition of new space, as things stand right now. I will commit to the Member that we will contact the board and Public Works in the region and get an update on the condition of the space that the senior students are in right now and I will report back to the Member. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Buildings and works, Inuvik, total region, \$898,000. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Do we have a quorum?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Mr. Ootes is correct. The chair does not recognize a quorum. We now have a quorum.

Total region, buildings and works, Inuvik, \$898,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Buildings and works, Baffin, total region, \$5.56 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Buildings and works, Keewatin, total region, \$4.504 million,

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**



Buildings and works, Kitikmeot, total region, \$3.754 million. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. On page 14-20, school addition, Pelly Bay; Madam Chair, in Pelly Bay, the gymnasium is separate from the school. Therefore, every time there is a physical activity going on, especially in the wintertime, the school children have to leave the premises to go to a separate building. There is a lot of disruption, kids have to leave the school, they have to dress up to go to the community complex to do their physical activities. By the time the physical activity is over, most of the school children are sweating and then they have to leave the building to go back to school.

It is my understanding that there was a request from the community education council of Pelly Bay, from the hamlet council, and, more importantly, from the community. The Kitikmeot Divisional Board has indicated to the government that they wish to build a new gymnasium attached to the present school. Is this budget part of the gymnasium addition to the school in Pelly Bay? Thank you.

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**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. We are aware that the community had hoped to see a gymnasium in the school. The community had offered to contribute \$250,000 towards the gym if the divisional board would contribute the extra \$700,000. The department can't find the \$1.2 million needed within its budget to provide the gymnasium. So we are looking at whether or not it might be possible to provide a link between the school and the recreation centre to provide better access to the existing gym. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. The Minister has indicated that perhaps a corridor or a link would be built between the community complex and the existing school. Has the request come from the community? Is

the community aware that the government may wish to build a corridor between the school and the gymnasium at the request of the community? I am not aware of that. Perhaps the Minister can enlighten me if that is the request of the community. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Madam Chair, the request to the department for the connecting hallway came from the divisional board, so we had assumed that it was at the community's request.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Kitikmeot, total region, \$3.754 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I note that there is a new high school for Rankin Inlet for over \$3 million. I also have information that the building has barely 70 per cent utilization. I was wondering what the rationale was for a new building if the old one is not even three-quarters full.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Does the committee agree that we will go back to the Keewatin region?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. This was an ongoing project from the previous years.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Mr.

Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Could the Minister explain what he means by an ongoing project?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

(Microphone turned off) ... what was done last year and what will be done with this new money.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. The planning was under way last year and the previous government had approved a negotiated contract to build the school in the community. The Member is right, those were planning dollars. The construction dollars are showing up in 1996-97.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. If the school is only at 71 per cent capacity, why is there a need for a new school?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Madam Chair, as I indicated yesterday, ongoing projects were given the first priority to conclude in the capital budget. This project was originally established because of overcrowding conditions at the Leo Ussak Elementary School in Rankin Inlet. Since the time that

that project was started, a similar situation has developed there as has happened at Sir John. The number of students who are being boarded from other communities and are attending that school have gone down, a lot more quickly than was expected. That has left open the space in Kivalliq Hall for Nunavut Arctic College to move into. Nunavut Arctic College had been in the school. That has contributed to a project that started in an overcrowded situation to one where the utilization has dropped.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Is it safe to say that we are actually building a high school to accommodate Nunavut Arctic College?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. No, it is being built as a high school. The school would be built as a high school, which would mean that it would be built somewhat differently than schools that serve other grades. It is as a result of grade extensions in other communities that Nunavut Arctic College has found space in Rankin.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Erasmus.

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**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I thought the Minister had indicated that Nunavut Arctic College moved into that building, so it is now overcrowded. If Nunavut Arctic College wasn't there, it would only be 70 per cent utilized. Am I getting the wrong picture?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. When this project started, Nunavut Arctic College was located within the school.

Because of space becoming available in Kivalliq Hall, Nunavut Arctic College has moved out of the school and into Kivalliq Hall.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

From the information that we have gathered from our previous reports, the school in Rankin Inlet is only 71 per cent utilized. I thought that you had to have a utilization of 85 per cent or over in order to get a new school. I am still trying to figure out if there isn't 85 per cent there, then why is there a new school going there.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. The utilization was much higher, given the space before and when the project did get started, the building was ... I don't have the exact figure with me right now, but it was over 80 per cent in use when the project was started. As I said, ongoing projects were given the first priority in the capital budget

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. O'Brien, I would like to recognize you, but you have to sit in your own seat. Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Since we're back in the Keewatin again, on the schools, I would like to ask the Minister when do we expect the school in Arviat to be built. I see it's indicated there but there is no date, as such, affixed to the construction time.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Mr. Minister, we're referring to the Keewatin region, again. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. This budget shows planning dollars for the school in Arviat in this current year, with design in 1997-98 and construction in 1998-99. That's our current five-year plan.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Those are all my questions for the time being, Madam Speaker; "for the time being."

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

No further questions. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, do I understand from the Minister that he's building, over two years, a \$5 million school in Rankin Inlet when their present school is 71 per cent to 80 per cent occupied, and my community has to live in a condemned building?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I have committed to the Member to look into his allegation that the building is condemned in Tuk. I am of the understanding that, in fact, the building is not condemned but I will have to ask Public Works to confirm that for me. As I indicated yesterday, in the capital planning process, we carried on with those projects that were well under way in the capital plan as a first priority. The new buildings that got into the plan this year were then ranked by the priorities that I listed yesterday. The first priority being safety and health, the second being a space shortfall, and then, the third, getting into technical reasons for upgrading the schools.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Perhaps I should rephrase my question or my statement: The building, as I explained to the Minister earlier, was, in fact, condemned by DPW. The community took the initiative, with some help from the Department of Education, to renovate the building for the present time to answer the shortage of space for grade 11 and 12 in that community. It was a condemned

building. The government did spend X number of dollars towards renovating it. The point is, it was supposed to be an interim solution because we did not have any place to put grade 11 and 12.

Now I understand that even though the school requirement is not met, use or capacity requirements are not met in Rankin Inlet, \$5 million is being identified for that place and yet they're not answering the shortage in my community. I would agree with the Minister that DPW did go back in there and renovate the building, they did put money in it to bring it up to what they call safety standards, but it's still a temporary solution as far as we're concerned. As a matter of fact, Madam Chair, I invite the Minister, rather than send DPW down there to have another look, to go and have a look himself to see what we have. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. In the course of the next year, I'd be happy to accompany the Member on a tour of the facilities in his constituency and we'll endeavour to do that. Madam Chair, when the process of developing the capital plan was under way, as I said, when we looked at how much was going to be cut from the capital plan, we ranked projects that were ongoing as being the first priority. This was a project that had been approved and a negotiated contract had been approved for it. In making changes at that time, you wouldn't have the capacity, necessarily, to do the design work and move a school ahead into this fiscal year. It was felt that the best

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approach was to carry on with some of those projects that were slated for construction in 1996-97 and then take a look at ranking, by priority, new projects and how they got into the budget from this point in time. There may not have been an opportunity to provide a new school somewhere else by making any kind of change to this program. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Could the Minister indicate what is happening with that new school in Arviat?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. As I indicated to the Member for Arviat, we show dollars for the planning phase in this budget, 1996-97, design in 1997-98, and construction in 1998-99.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

I'm assuming that that's just planned, then, and that there's no commitment for that further money.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Any monies to be spent in years 1997-98 and subsequently must be approved by this Legislature. Anything that's shown as future years anticipated will have to be approved by this House and cannot be firmly committed to.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. On the school in Rankin Inlet, the Minister had mentioned that there has been some work that took place last year. Can you elaborate on what has been done and what stage the project is at right now?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. The design work was the stage that was being worked on last year. It was just design work.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

So am I correct in understanding that, as far as this \$3.3 million, the only commitments that are made are for payments to prepare drawings?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. We are showing in 1995-96 \$251,000, so those are obviously planning monies. I am not sure exactly where Public Works is in the process of administering this project, so I can't answer the specific question that the Member for Yellowknife South has asked. We would have to check with Public Works and get back to you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Anything further, Mr. Henry?

**MR. HENRY:**

On that, I was of the understanding that we would have to approve these main estimates before work could proceed. Am I misinformed here somewhere?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. No, the Member is not misinformed. All of the funds that you find in the budget have to be approved, typically, before things can proceed. I guess I have to be careful with that because the interim appropriation that was passed by this House did, in fact, include most of the dollars, and I believe that the capital dollars that were in that interim appropriation represent a commitment for most of the projects that you see in this budget, so I would have to say that, in a sense, the commitment was made with that interim appropriation. I know that certainly the commitments have been made to the community, the CEC and the divisional board that this

project is ongoing. As I mentioned, there was an agreement by the previous government to negotiate the contract to build the school.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. A few moments ago, the Minister spoke about the Arviat school and the timing of it. Unfortunately, at that time, I had a distraction, and I was wondering if the Minister would repeat the comments regarding the timing of the Arviat school or the comments that you made earlier, two or three moments ago?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Our current five-year plan shows a total of \$5.7 million for the project, starting in 1996-97 as a planning year. The 1997-98 year would be for design work, with major construction in 1998-99 and some follow-up work in 1999-2000, with the warranty being in the year 2000-01.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I move to report progress.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

This motion is in order. It is not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is defeated. Mr. Premier.

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**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that we extend sitting hours to conclude the department.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

The motion is in order and is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? Does the chair break a tie?

--- SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

The Chair is required to vote against the motion, so the motion is defeated. Carrying on, total region for Kitikmeot, \$3.754 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Total buildings and works, \$21.385 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$1.27 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Total equipment acquisition, \$1.27 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Total region,  
\$11,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Contributions, Fort Smith, total region, \$1.212 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Contributions, Inuvik, total region, \$7.982 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Contributions, Baffin, total region, \$185,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Contributions,  
Keewatin, total region, \$22,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Total contributions, \$9.412 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Total activity, \$32.067 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Details of grants and contributions, grants, \$11.639 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Contributions, culture and careers, contributions, \$178.902 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Total department, \$190.541 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Page 14-26, information item, colleges.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Information item, college funding allocation, page 14-27.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Information item, college support services, page 14-28.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed.

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**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Information item, detail of funding allocated to school boards.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Information item, divisional boards of education, support services.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Information item, student loan revolving fund.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, total department, \$5.279 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

If I could refer Members to page 14-11, program summary, Education, Culture and Employment, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$250.895 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to ask the Minister...

--- Interjection

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

I am sorry, Mr. Steen, the hour being 6:00, we will have to rise and report progress. Thank you very much, Minister Dent, and your witnesses. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The House will come back to order. Item 21, report of Committee of the Whole. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 21: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 11 and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

--- Carried

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

ITEM 23: ORDERS OF THE DAY

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):**

Mr. Speaker, orders of the day:

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 8, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act
  - 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. By the authority given to the  
Speaker by Motion 3-13(3), this House stands  
adjourned until Monday, May 13, 1996, at 1:30 p.m.

**--- ADJOURNMENT**