



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3rd Session

Day 1-

13th Assembly

HANSARD

HI 9G85M\A 5M&%ž 1996

Pages 4-)!)' *
Pagination reflects print edition

The Honourable Samuel Gargan, Speaker

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 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. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Hon. Don Morin, Hon. Kelvin Ng, Mr. Ningark, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Hon. Manito Thompson, Hon. John Todd

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ITEM 1: PRAYER

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

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

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 62-13(3): Renewable Energy Technology Workshop

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise the Members of the House that the Government of the Northwest Territories, in conjunction with the NWT Power Corporation, the Public Utilities Board, Natural Resources Canada and the Canadian Wind Energy Association, co-sponsored and participated in a renewable energy technology workshop in Yellowknife on April 10th and 11th.

The objective of the workshop was to identify opportunities for the increased use of renewable energy technologies in the production of electricity in the NWT, and to discuss policies and actions required to bring about an increase in the use of these renewable technologies.

I am pleased to advise that the workshop was very successful and was attended by approximately 40 persons representing key northern stakeholders, the renewable energy industry and government.

The two most important recommendations which came out of the workshop were: First, that a renewable energy policy be developed by this government. This policy should be developed in

conjunction with a more comprehensive updated energy policy which would address energy efficiency, conservation and subsidy programs.

Second, that a renewable energy working committee be established to ensure continued communication and cooperation between key stakeholders. There was also

consensus that the communities need to be given a greater voice in energy planning decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform Members of the Assembly that the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has begun preparing a draft renewable energy policy and will be establishing a renewable energy working committee to interact with key stakeholders.

Once in draft form, we will be distributing the renewable energy policy to stakeholders for consultation.

The creation of a suitable policy environment for renewables is an important piece in the puzzle if we are to begin improving the planning and delivery of energy services to our communities. A comprehensive energy policy, including the renewable energy, will be developed in consultation with the communities and northern stakeholders. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 63-13(3): Block Funding Agreement Fort Smith

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later today, I will be travelling to Fort Smith with the MLA for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger, for the signing of a block funding agreement with the town of Fort Smith.

The mayor of Fort Smith, His Worship Dennis Bevington, and I will sign a three-year agreement that will provide the town an annual block funding contribution for all MACA-related programs, both capital and operations.

The Premier has announced, as part of the agenda for change, that block funding arrangements with

community governments will be a key feature of the community empowerment priority.

Mr. Speaker, block funding is an important means of empowering community governments:

- it gives a community government control of financial resources, without conditions;
- it allows a community government to set its spending priorities to meet the needs it identifies;
- it maximizes the accountability of the community governments to its electorate -- councils must answer to community government for its decisions; and,

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- it minimizes reporting to the GNWT to areas where there are core territorial interests.

The block funding agreement with Fort Smith provides the town with a greater degree of certainty in budgeting for future municipal services and programs. Council will be able to budget with the flexibility to match resources with its priorities.

Other block funding agreements will follow, Mr. Speaker. We have agreement with the town of Hay River and will sign its agreement some time in June. The town of Inuvik has expressed interest and discussions have begun on an agreement. Other agreements will follow.

I am pleased to advise Members of this very concrete example of our commitment to empower communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 64-13(3): Premier's Panel On The Economy And Employment

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to stand before the House today to announce the appointment of 16 members of the private sector to the Premier's Panel on the Economy and Employment.

Mr. Speaker, this panel will provide an opportunity for informal and direct dialogue between this government and representatives of the private sector. The panel

will provide advice to this government on how the business climate in the Northwest Territories can be improved to attract jobs, investment and capital.

Mr. Speaker, a strong, healthy economy cannot be achieved by government initiatives alone. Government and private sector must create strong and effective partnerships if we hope to improve economic opportunities for northerners.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the Premier's Panel on the Economy and Employment, who have been selected to represent the diversity of economic sectors and geographic regions in the Northwest Territories, are: Willard Hagen of Inuvik; Russell Newmark of Tuktoyaktuk; Larry Wallace of Norman Wells; Joanne Deneron of Fort Liard; Mike Magrum, Gary Jaeb, Jack Walker and Stefan Simek, all of Yellowknife; Sandra Jaque of Fort Smith; Russell King of Hay River; David Ittinuar of Rankin Inlet; Leonie Napa Duffy of Coral Harbour; Wilf Wilcox of Cambridge Bay; Dennis Lyle of Taloyoak; Naomi Akavak of Kimmirut; and, Bob Hanson of Iqaluit.

I am hoping to convene the first meeting of the panel at the earliest opportunity and I am looking forward to a very useful and productive counsel and I am confident this panel will provide that for us. Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Enuaraq.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Interaction Between Messrs. Picco And Todd

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's nice to be back in the House today. Believe me, Mr. Speaker, I didn't know Mr. Picco was going to wear a red tie today, so I put on my red tie for today.

Mr. Speaker, as a new Member of this Assembly, I have often found myself amused observing the interaction between fellow MLAs in the many committee, Caucus and other meetings we attend. No relationship is more entertaining to observe than that between Mr. Todd and Mr. Picco. I'll give you a good

example, Mr. Speaker, since it was reported in the Nunatsiaq News May 17th issue.

Mr. Speaker, all Members will recall, especially Members of the Nunavut Caucus, how Mr. Todd is always reminding us that the decisions we are making for Nunavut will not only affect us, but they will affect our children and our children's children. I guess being our eldest Member of the Nunavut Caucus, next to Mr. Ningark...

--- Laughter

... Mr. Todd is expected to give us this wise advice, from time to time. And I do appreciate this advice, Mr. Speaker. What I found very funny, Mr. Speaker, was what happened to Mr. Picco when he dared to use one of Mr. Todd's favourite sayings at the recent Nunavut Leaders' Summit in Arviat. I think what Mr. Picco did wrong was that he should have asked Mr. Todd for permission to use one of his favourite phrases, but Mr. Picco went ahead and used the phrase without asking Mr. Todd's permission. As Nunatsiaq News reported, Mr. Picco said, at the Arviat Leaders' Summit, when he was expressing his concerns about the amount of money available to set up Nunavut: "I don't want to see my children and your children inheriting a debt in the Nunavut government that we cannot pay."

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Baffin Central is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? Conclude your statement, Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have thought that such a strong statement, especially with the reference to Mr. Todd's favourite phrase about my children and your children, would be welcomed by our Minister of Finance. However, Mr. Speaker, instead of endorsing Mr. Picco's strong statements, Mr. Todd is quoted as saying:

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"Ed's right in some ways," he said, referring to Mr. Picco, "but he does tend to overdramatize.

--- Laughter

I would say it takes one to know one, Mr. Speaker.

--- Laughter

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Picco. Member's Statement On Duke Of Edinburgh Award

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I won't even try to top that statement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to the Members, a program that has been running in Iqaluit for the past six years. The program is found world-wide and it's called "The Duke of Edinburgh Award." It has proven to be a program that has helped kids stay in school.

In Iqaluit, it is offered through the Terry Fox program at Inuksuk High School. There are three levels of difficulty, and to achieve the award requires participation in four main areas: learning new skills; competing in regular physical activity; participating in community service; and, going on a three-day outdoor expedition.

Mr. Speaker, this program is introduced at the high school level in the Terry Fox program, and has proven to be a key motivator in helping the students achieve both academic and vocational success. Every year, about a dozen Terry Fox program students earn the award and, in 1994, three of the students were flown here to Yellowknife to be presented the award by the Duke himself.

The teacher who introduced the program is a well-known, long-time northerner, Nick Newbery. Mr. Newbery has spent many hours of his own time to ensure the success of the Duke of Edinburgh Award and must be congratulated for his dedication and service to the youth of Iqaluit.

I am proud to have been invited to present the Duke of Edinburgh Award later next month in Iqaluit and would invite Members to contact me for more information about this most useful program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Accident On Highway 3
Taking Life Of Gerry Kodzin

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have heard on the radio this morning about my region mourning the loss of a young man from Snare Lake. This young man was 25 years old and had not even started his life. Gerry Kodzin was a very bright and ambitious young man. His parents were very proud of him. He worked hard and helped his family with trapping and hunting. He provided his friends

and family with many happy memories; unfortunately, his life came to an end on the dangerous Highway 3 between Yellowknife and Rae.

As many people before have said, the road needs to be upgraded, it is a very dangerous 100 kilometres that has claimed many people over the years and still no work has been done. How many more of our people will lose loved ones on this stretch of highway before anything is done to this highway to be safer?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On FAS/FAE Conference In
Seattle, Washington

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will speak today on a problem in our society that is one which is the highest of any other part of the country. The problem, Mr. Speaker, is fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effect, which I will refer to as FAS and FAE.

I have brought forth this concern before in this House, as has the Member for Yellowknife North. Mr. Speaker, this is one problem we cannot ignore. The cause of FAS and FAE is alcohol and it is preventable. It is not curable. Alcohol, when consumed by a pregnant mother, can have devastating and irreversible effects on the victim. In this case, the unborn child. Some research indicates that consumption of alcohol by both males and

females prior to pregnancy can also contribute to this condition.

In the North, we have an extremely high rate of this condition. In some of our communities, it is estimated that the number of children affected is 25 per cent or higher. Some of these children have severe burdens to carry. There is no cure or medicine for this condition which results in many, many disorders. Some of the results may include problems with school; which, in turn, manifests itself in troubles with the law, social, sexual and mental problems, to name but a few. We have been carrying this disease in the North for too long. Something needs to be done. We have to get educated so we can prevent and manage this condition. The burden our society has with these difficulties is immense, especially with our courts and correction facilities. There have been some attempts within our schools to establish a program for a while with FAS and FAE, but the problem is so large it requires a much more sustained attack.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the Members of this House and the interested people in our communities of a conference which will take place this September in Seattle, Washington, which is sponsored by the fetal alcohol and drug unit of the University of Washington, with support from the disabilities prevention program of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and the United States public health service.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife South is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do

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we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Henry, conclude your statement.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The program will include new studies on FAS/FAE; mental health and FAS/FAE; school, employment and independent living; sexuality and ... (inaudible) ... criminal justice and FAS; funding, screening, diagnosis services; Native American and special issues, and programs and institutional responses to FAS.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot stress the importance for us, as representatives of this government, to take serious consideration of this matter. I would suggest this conference is an ideal opportunity for this government to take a strong role in learning about this condition, as well as what can be done about it.

Innocent young victims often turn into members of our society who fill our institutions and without positive intervention, Mr. Speaker, this trend will continue. 1, for one, will be attending this conference and urge that Members of this government would be well advised to gain first-hand knowledge by attending such conferences as the one I'm proposing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Inaccurate Birth Records Impeding Access To Old-Age Pension Benefits

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I like to believe that I speak for the elders, women and children. These people don't belong to any associations or any group who will speak for them in a public forum. Mr. Speaker, I have been speaking for some of the elders in my area since the day I became elected in 1989.

Mr. Speaker, many dates of birth were rejected many years after the fact, especially in the Eastern Arctic area. There are many cases whereby an individual who should have been receiving an old-age pension is not receiving it because of the inaccurate issuing of the documents. Mr. Speaker, these are Canadian citizens. They should now be receiving what is rightfully theirs to enjoy the much-needed income, but still do not receive anything.

Mr. Speaker, I have approached the Department of Social Services and the Department of Justice regarding an individual living in Taloyoak who should now be receiving an old-age pension but is not receiving one because of the records. Mr. Speaker, elders in the Taloyoak area and in the Pelly Bay area and in the Gjoa Haven area know exactly what year the gentleman I'm talking about was born. According to the record that came from the RCMP office, it shows the gentleman is much younger than he really is. I have communicated with the Department of Social Services and with Justice in the past few years,

only to be told that the records they have are correct; whereby, the individual is not eligible to receive an old-age pension as of yet.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues. I am sure the case in Taloyoak is not the only case. I'm sure there are cases within other regions, perhaps in the Western Arctic, where the elders who should now be receiving an old-age pension are not receiving it because of the registration that was made 10 years after these individuals were born.

During question period, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Department of Justice to ensure that these people be given the money that rightfully belongs to them. How can we correct this situation within the system? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Tribute To Mrs. Mary Vittrekwa

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I regret to inform the House of the passing of a beautiful, elderly lady, Mrs. Mary Vittrekwa, who passed away this weekend in Fort McPherson in an automobile accident.

Mary was born at Blackstone, Yukon, in 1907. She resided in the Dawson area until she was married in January 1936, to the late William Vittrekwa. She raised her family out on the land, taught them all the traditional skills in order to survive. She was the kind of person who could be teased a lot, but also laughed a lot. She had nine children and she raised five grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and 18 great-great-grandchildren.

Right up until her death, she spent a lot of her time on the land. She will be greatly missed.

At this time, I would like to mention a few other elders who have passed away over the years: John Vaneltsi; Abe Thomas; Jim Robert; Johnny Reindeer; John Kay; and, Eliza Kunnizzie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Diamond Jenness Secondary School Graduation

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was my pleasure to attend the graduation exercises in my constituency on Friday. Sometimes, the statistics that we receive on education are discouraging; however, I am Pleased to report some good news from Hay River.

This year, 1996, was the largest graduation class ever from Diamond Jenness Secondary School; 34 graduates in total. These 34 students included two students from Fort Resolution attending high school in Hay River, two students from the Hay River Dene Band, students from Hay River and, for the first time, to my knowledge, interestingly a student

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who was attending school but also a resident in the Hay River Young Offenders' Facility.

Another fact which is frequently raised when considering the number of students graduating in the North is the disparity between aboriginal and non-aboriginal students. I am pleased to report that at least one-third of the students graduating in Hay River on Friday were Dene and Metis. The demographics of Hay River indicate that approximately one-third of Hay River is of aboriginal ancestry, so the fact that one-third of the grads were also aboriginal is a fact we should be very proud of.

The keynote speaker for the graduation was Captain Terry Camsell, manager of marine carrier operation of Northern Transportation Company and president of the Hay River Metis Local. Terry Camsell was interestingly a graduate of Diamond Jenness Secondary School 23 years prior, and he has had a very successful career and serves as an excellent role model to the young people of Hay River. Hay River is very proud of our graduates. Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Passing Of Two Elders From Arviat

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my condolences to the families and many friends of two respected elders who passed away last week in Arviat. I refer to Casimer Nutarasungnik and Mr. Paul Iniksak. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Picco and Mr. Barnabas for visiting with Casimer while they were at the Arviat summit last week. Mr. Speaker, these gentlemen will be sorely missed by all who knew them.

Mr. Speaker, moving on to a happier matter, one that I'm sure these elders would have...

MR. SPEAKER:

The rules are quite clear about your Member's statement. You must restrict your Member's statement to one topic only.

MR. O'BRIEN:

I believe that it is. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Nanisivik Mine Socio-Economic Development Agreement

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I spoke of my concern about employment of northerners in Nanisivik Mine in my constituency. I expressed my concern that the agreement between the mine and governments, which was put in place when the mine was first established, may not have been honoured in some respects.

Today, I wish to raise another concern about this matter. I understand, Mr. Speaker, that the Nanisivik

Monitoring Committee was set up under the master agreement for the

creation of the mine. It includes the mine, the federal government, the territorial government and the community of Arctic Bay. Under the agreement, the regional director of Baffin represents the GNWT, along with the deputy minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

It is clear that as long as the mine exists, the committee must exist. The next meeting is scheduled for this summer and I am very pleased to learn that they plan to meet in my home community of Arctic Bay. Later this session, I will be asking our Premier who will be representing the GNWT in light of the termination of the regional director's position in the Baffin region.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about the employment issues. I believe that recent trends have shown that northern employment has been diminished and turnover rates have been increasing. I understand that the committee has recently been considering the issue of northern employment, with the full support of Nanisivik Mines Limited. This concern led to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to issue a contract to Kakivak Association to study this committee.

I believe that especially due to the issue of employment, it will be important that the GNWT continue to have strong representatives on this committee, especially in light of current concerns about northern employment and benefits in my constituency.

Later this session, I will be asking our Premier, who will be representing the GNWT in light of the termination of the regional director's position in the Baffin region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Stanton Regional Hospital's Haemodialysis Clinic

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, along with the other three Yellowknife MLAs, I had the opportunity to attend a ribbon-clamping ceremony, which was the official opening of the Stanton Regional Health Board haemodialysis clinic.

Mr. Speaker, this clinic is designed to facilitate the repatriation of Northwest Territories patients who, because of kidney disease, had been required to reside close to southern treatment facilities. Effective the 1st of May, the service began here and already two Northwest Territories residents, one from Yellowknife and one from Hay River, are receiving their treatment in the North.

Mr. Speaker, three more Northwest Territories residents will return from the South in the next few weeks. Their home communities are Yellowknife, Fort Providence and Dettah.

Mr. Speaker, this haemodialysis clinic was established with close links to the University of Alberta Hospital dialysis program. The U of A program provides considerable support to our service, including a consulting kidney specialist who visits every six months.

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The Stanton clinic operates under the supervision of Doctor Sylvain Chouinard, an internist who has received special training from the University of Alberta Hospital. Clinic nursing staff have also received special training and, as I said earlier, close links will be maintained with the U of A Hospital's haemodialysis program.

Mr. Speaker, this is an example of us spending our money in the North. It costs no more, it provides a boost to the economy and it improves the lives of northerners because they are closer to their friends and family. Mr. Speaker, we need to continue the process of looking for more opportunities like this. I would like to congratulate the Stanton Regional Hospital Board on their initiative in this program and encourage them to continue looking for more opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Difficulties Receiving Social Assistance At Yellowknife Women's Centre

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the income support which was formerly known as social assistance. Mr. Speaker, we've often been told that the budget will not be balanced on the backs of

the poor; however, I have received several letters from constituents as well as from the Yellowknife Women's Centre indicating that clients who go to the Yellowknife Career Centre are being told that unless children are a factor, no person is eligible for an emergency appointment even though they, themselves, are without food or accommodation. Even if a client with children is considered for an emergency appointment, which means they are either without food or a place to stay, the average delay to receiving any assistance is about two weeks.

The Women's Centre has also been told by some of their clients that people with children are either being told emergency assistance no longer exists or they are denied emergency assistance, even though they have no food for either themselves or their children. Clients have also been told, whether they have children or not and they're seeking a regular appointment with an income support worker, on average they are delayed five to six weeks before they are assisted.

Similarly, clients with or without children who miss appointments are denied assistance until the following month, which means they are unable to pay their rent or buy food and diapers for a period of six weeks to two months.

Mr. Speaker, the Yellowknife Women's Centre is being told by their clients that clients are told to access food at the Yellowknife food bank which is no longer in operation, or at the Salvation Army food bank, until their appointment with an income support worker. The Salvation Army indicates that they generally limit a person's ability to access limited types of food to twice in one month, and they only provide food for a couple of days at a time.

Numerous clients have also complained that the receptionist at the front desk of the Career Centre is rude, abusive and obstructive in her behaviour. The Women's Centre has also been informed that appointments with income support workers are often scheduled mid-month, even if clients book ahead. Therefore, they aren't able to meet the legal requirements of paying rent at the 1st of the following month, which leaves them open for eviction by landlords.

Mr. Speaker, the Women's Centre has also been informed that students on income support who attend Aurora College from the communities outside of Yellowknife and have had airfare provided by their families to go home for Easter break, have had that

amount of money deducted from income support which left them unable to pay for rent or food for themselves or their children.

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. Conclude your statement, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A further complaint that the Yellowknife Women's Centre has heard is that clients are not being informed that they have the right to appeal decisions that have been made by the income support worker, nor are they provided with the appropriate documentation to pursue an appeal.

Mr. Speaker, we have often heard that this government will not balance the budget on the backs of the poor. Surely, Mr. Speaker, if some of these allegations are true, then perhaps we are indeed attempting to balance the budget somewhat on the backs of the poor. These types of things should not be happening. I would urge the Minister responsible for income support to look into these matters. I put him on notice that I will be asking questions at the appropriate time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a good friend of mine and also my brother-in-law from Clyde River, Mr. James Akavak.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 269-13(3): Status Of Honorarium For Panel On The Economy And Employment

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. Could the Premier indicate to the House what kind of stipend his economic panel is going to be paid, if any? Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 269-13(3): Status Of Honorarium For Panel On The Economy And Employment

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was my intention at the very onset of establishing this panel to pick people who are very committed to the North, very committed to seeing the North develop and creating jobs in the North. It was my understanding that we would not be paying any honorariums to panel members. There is talk of some of the panel members requesting at least \$1 a year to be paid, so there was some type of contractual arrangement between the two.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 269-13(3): Status Of Honorarium For Panel On The Economy And Employment

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Have the panel all accepted the appointments?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 269-13(3): Status Of Honorarium For Panel On The Economy And Employment

As Members know as well, most of the Northwest Territories is subject to the settlement of comprehensive claims and most of those have benefit agreements that are required by law to be fulfilled when projects are being proposed. There are discussions with communities and regions as to trying to find ways to encourage communities, particularly aboriginal people to take on jobs and training in the industries that are most prevailing. Those are the types of initiatives that this government tries to advance, as well as looking at partnerships between the mining companies and the aboriginal claims organizations in the area to ensure that a working relationship is established at the onset and the working relationship is posed to result in some very real benefits to both parties as work progresses. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 270-13(3): Status Of Economic Benefits Agreements With Mining Companies

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 1974, an agreement was made with what became Nanisivik Mines Ltd. This agreement was meant to ensure that jobs at Nanisivik Mines went to northerners. Does the Minister plan on implementing similar agreements with mines that are planning to open in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize earlier for calling you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Speaker, the panel have all accepted their appointments and I look forward to calling a meeting around mid-June. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 270-13(3): Status Of Economic Benefits Agreements With Mining Companies

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends) ... Mines and Petroleum Resources. In his Budget Address, the Minister of Finance stated that mining companies are welcome here as they are

prepared to create jobs for northerners. Can the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources explain what this department is doing to ensure that the mining companies do indeed create jobs for northerners? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 270-13(3): Status Of Economic Benefits Agreements With Mining Companies

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has worked with the mining industry to alert them to the fact that prior to any projects being initiated in advance, we require an effort on the part of the government, with the mining industry taking the lead, to negotiate with affected regions and communities a package that would demonstrate realistic benefits in terms of jobs, training and economic spin-offs that would be of benefit directly and indirectly. That is one initiative we work with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 270-13(3): Status Of Economic Benefits Agreements With Mining Companies

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, it is my view that the agreements for each specific project are best left to be negotiated by the affected parties. Presumably, that would be the local communities and the regional aboriginal organizations, as well as the regional business and political organizations. It is my view that each agreement, by its nature, would be different depending on the needs and expectations of the communities, its people and the regions. As well, the expectations of the company involved may vary from region to region. It is my view that benefits from mining initiatives, for instance, are not realistic if we set very high employment percentages. We should look for diversifying the expectations of where and what benefits should come to the communities and the regions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 270-13(3): Status Of Economic Benefits Agreements With Mining Companies

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The agreement that was made for Nanisivik Mines was established. (Translation ends) ... the Commissioner was supposed to appoint a counsellor whose job it would be to assist northerners in getting jobs administered along with getting appropriate training and support, but such a counsellor was never appointed. As a result, the number of northerners working at Nanisivik Mines has been disappointing. Can the Minister ensure this House and ensure all northerners that he and his government will follow

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through on any agreements made with the mining companies planning to open new mines in the NWT to ensure that northerners get the jobs at those new mines? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 270-13(3): Status Of Economic Benefits Agreements With Mining Companies

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is a good suggestion to be made and one that this government can work with. One of the suggested recommendations is to work with mining companies to see if some sort of transportation subsidy could be initiated by this government to enhance the employment of aboriginal people and northern residents from surrounding communities and even adjacent regions, in order to increase the number of jobs taken by aboriginal and northern people. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 271-13(3): Taloyoak Resident Not Receiving Old Age Pension

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my Member's statement, an elder living in Taloyoak should now be receiving an old-age pension but hasn't yet received it. That pension fundamentally belongs to the individual. Mr. Speaker, I have talked to this issue since the day I got elected in the year 1989 with no avail. There are a number of occasions that have come to my attention for the past six and a half years.

Here is one more which hasn't been delivered. The individual in question is unilingual. He has no knowledge of the western legal system. The gentleman has no access to a lawyer at the community level. The individual is an elder who should now be receiving an old-age pension. The individual knows that there are people much younger than he is receiving the old-age pension. In the community, according to the knowledge of elders, the church records and the records from the RCMP office are incorrect and these elders can attest to that fact. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Justice Minister, in this case. Will the Minister direct his staff to Mr. Jimmy Totalik ___ I will spell the name, for the record; T-O-T-A-L-I-K -- and have a legal aid worker talk to Mr. Totalik to find a way to make sure records are corrected, so the gentlemen will receive the old-age pension that he should be receiving? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The question was directed to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Ningark? Minister of Justice, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 271-13(3): Taloyoak Resident Not Receiving Old Age Pension

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member is correct, he has brought this issue before me as the Minister of Health and Social Services in the past. It is difficult to deal with the issue when you are trying to substantiate records contrary to what is on file with the RCMP and what is on file with the church groups. However, recognizing the issue the honourable Member has brought forward, I will have someone take a look at the matter once again to see if there is anything that can be done to rectify the situation about this individual's age. I have to say that it will be difficult, without some form of substantiation

that we will need, to bring forward a case for having his year of birth corrected, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 271-13(3): Taloyoak Resident Not Receiving Old Age Pension

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe, Mr. Speaker, the records can be rectified. I say that because I have talked to many elders in Taloyoak who were around at the time the gentlemen was born. So will the honourable Minister talk to his staff to make sure records are corrected, once and for all? There are necessary documents that can be witnessed by the elders. Will he get his staff to talk to Mr. Totalik and deal with the matter once and for all?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 271-13(3): Taloyoak Resident Not Receiving Old Age Pension

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, yes, I am willing to have a staff person speak to Mr. Totalik to try to get some information. As I indicated earlier, if the records were improperly recorded to begin with, then it is a difficult situation unless you have someone who was there at the time who can correct what was recorded in the case of this individual's year of birth. As you know, back then it was a federal responsibility for those types of records. We will work with the honourable Member and with his constituent to try to resolve the situation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 272-13(3): Funding For Beaufort/Delta Legal Services Clinic

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. It is with regard to the funding of the Beaufort/Delta legal services clinic for funds that

have been allocated to service contracts to service clients who need legal aid. It has been noted with regard to the number of resources that have been allocated to other jurisdictions with regard to the legal services. As you will note, the Mackenzie Delta, at one time, had two legal services: Arctic Rim Law Society, which is based out of Tuktoyaktuk; and, Mackenzie Delta Legal Services, out of Inuvik. Since then, they amalgamated to form one, called the Beaufort/Delta Legal Services Clinic.

With regard to the amount of resources that are going to be allocated this year for \$260,000 to maintain the two operations into one, if you figure it out based on percentages and the number of clients and court activity, as well as the cost, to date the Beaufort/Delta in the past year have had

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4,660 court cases. Other areas, such as the Keewatin, had 1,443. Those clients, in the case of the Beaufort/Delta have received \$260,000. The Kitikmeot, \$200,000 works out to an average per court appearance of \$138.60. Yet, the Beaufort/Delta works out to \$55. That's almost two-thirds less than what is being spent there.

Just to use another scenario; for instance, in the last 10 months of 1995-96, the number of applications in the Kitikmeot was 205 which works out to almost a \$976 cost per applicant, yet the Mackenzie-Delta with 297 works out to \$870. Between those two costs, it works out to about \$100 difference.

In closing, I would like to ask the Minister to see if there's a possibility of reviewing the funds that will be allocated for 1996-97 with regard to the Beaufort/Delta, and also all services in the Northwest Territories, to maintain that all individuals who apply for legal aid will have adequate resources available to them and also allow for the funds to be allocated equally right across the Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 272-13(3): Funding For Beaufort/Delta Legal Services Clinic

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Legal Services Board of the Northwest Territories has

jurisdiction for decisions relating to how they provide services throughout the Northwest Territories. That decision to amalgamate the two boards in the Inuvik area was made by the Legal Services Board as a whole. There was representation from the region who sits on the Legal Services Board. Having recognized the Member's concern, I will ask the Legal Services Board to review the decision that they've made. But as it stands now, I am supporting the decision of the board. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 272-13(3): Funding For Beaufort/Delta Legal Services Clinic

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the budget of last year, there has been a \$140,000 cut to the level of funding the region has been allocated; we have basically taken a \$140,000 cut to the level of funds we are getting. It's unacceptable that someone from one riding will have a court cost of \$55, yet in other areas it's almost up to \$165 which is almost \$110 more between one constituency and the other. I think we're talking about budget restraint, trying to bring people in line and also fairness as to how this money is allocated. I think we have to seriously look at the amount of resources that are spent, that we somehow try to ensure that the court costs aren't any higher in any one place versus the other place. Regarding the question of being accountable and also talking about the deficit, why isn't the Minister taking that into consideration in this case?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 272-13(3): Funding For Beaufort/Delta Legal Services Clinic

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are taking into consideration the Legal Services Board's action on this particular matter to amalgamate the two boards. There have been some significant cost savings identified through combining the administrative functions of those two boards. That is where a lot of the savings are being identified, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't matter if you amalgamate two legal firms or 10 legal firms, the number of applicants will still be there. During the last year, the Beaufort/Delta has had 4,660 applicants, versus in the Kitikmeot where there was 1,222, which is a difference of almost 3,000. The services still have to meet the demand of those individuals, so the resources for that demand has to be there. I think that's the point that I'm trying to make. Because of the discretion with regard to funding, you can't adequately service that many people for the amount of resources you have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. There was no question there. Again, I would like to remind the Members about their preamble. Have your preamble at the beginning. Mr. Krutko, you added about four minutes of speech to your two supplementary questions. Mr. Krutko, your point of order.

Point Of Order

MR. KRUTKO:

I think there was a question. It was with regard to the number of clients in one region versus the other. There is 4,000 plus in the Delta, versus 1,200.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Krutko, could you ask the question to the Minister then? I heard a statement but I didn't hear a question. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 272-13(3): Funding For Beaufort/Delta Legal Services Clinic

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The number of applicants who filed in the Mackenzie-Delta last year was 4,660, yet in other ridings such as the Kitikmeot there was 1,228. Because of the discretion in the numbers, do you think the adequate resources have to be there to meet the demands of those services?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 272-13(3): Funding For Beaufort/Delta Legal Services Clinic

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not certain about the numbers of applications, one versus the other. However, I will say that the Legal Services Board is an independent board. They allocate the funding based on what they see as the needs throughout the Northwest Territories, and they place those resources as they feel they are most required, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Again, just to remind the Members, if any Members are questioning the ruling of the chair, I have to, in this case, Mr. Krutko, review the Hansard to see whether you did in fact challenge the chair. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 273-13(3): Update On Iqaluit Generator Difficulties

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of NTPC announced a serious situation with the generator failure in Iqaluit on Friday in this House. Can the Minister for NTPC give us an update on the developments there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 273-13(3): Update On Iqaluit Generator Difficulties

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been determined that the fire has damaged the generator only, so the Power Corporation has located a used generator in Texas. This is the exact same type of generator: 2.5 megawatts. Arrangements are being made to have it trucked to Canada and it will then be flown to Iqaluit. We're not sure as to the availability of an aircraft that will handle the load, so I can't give a

firm time frame, but we expect that it will be up and running in Iqaluit within the next three to four weeks.

At this point in time, we still don't know what caused the failure and the fire. As I said, Mr. Speaker, it has been determined that the engine is still in good shape, so it's only the generator we're replacing.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 274-13(3): Responsibility For Maintenance On Ingraham Trail

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday I made a Member's statement and indicated that my constituents on the Ingraham Trail were concerned about the upkeep of the Ingraham Trail. My question is for the Minister of Transportation. Who pays for the upkeep of the Ingraham Trail?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 274-13(3); Maintenance On Ingraham Trail Responsibility For

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Transportation has the task of maintaining the Ingraham Trail. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 274-13(3): Responsibility For Maintenance On Ingraham Trail

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know if the big trucks that are carrying loads back and forth on Ingraham Trail pay in any way for the upkeep of that highway.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 274-13(3): Responsibility For Maintenance On Ingraham Trail

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, the transportation companies do not pay for the maintenance of the Ingraham Trail. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 274-13(3): Responsibility For Maintenance On Ingraham Trail

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Considering the fact that these trucks carry considerable loads and often at maximum capacity -- and, it has been heard, at overcapacity -- is it possible to put a surcharge on large vehicles that are travelling back and forth; say \$200 a load or something?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 274-13(3): Responsibility For Maintenance On Ingraham Trail

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the present time, the department does not charge large transport trucks for transporting any of our infrastructure in the Northwest Territories, including along the Ingraham Trail. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 274-13(3): Responsibility For Maintenance On Ingraham Trail

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for his information, that we currently do not have a surcharge. Is it possible, under our current legislation, to implement a surcharge for these large trucks? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 274-13(3): Responsibility For Maintenance On Ingraham Trail

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government is under a lot of financial restraint and we're always looking for innovative ways to try to generate revenues. As we know, 80 per cent of the NWT government's revenue comes from transfer payments, we have a very small private sector contributing to our economy. As we go through the budget and begin work in the next three years, perhaps it's one of the areas where we could

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look to see what we could do as the Department of Transportation in trying to increase the private sector contributions to our revenue. This is a good suggestion and I'll take that as advice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 275-13(3): Possibility Of Public Service Strike

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the honourable Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, my better half is the chairperson of the local education community in Pelly Bay, my son is a member of the teaching staff and I have about five grandchildren who are attending school. In the event that government employees would rule on the contract, what is going to happen then? Will there be a strike? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 275-13(3): Possibility Of Public Service Strike

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the UNW employees do not ratify the agreement that they're supposed to set out this week or next week and they vote no, it will mean that we'll have to move to mediation. Mediation takes 21 days. I've made it abundantly clear to the union and the union has made it clear to us that there

is no other room for any further compromise or additional dollars, so a no vote would mean the inevitability of a strike. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 275-13(3): Possibility Of Public Service Strike

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In case there is a strike within the system, is the government prepared? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 275-13(3): Possibility Of Public Service Strike

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me answer that by saying that this government is certainly not advocating a strike. We did move forward in trying to negotiate in a reasonable and fair way with our colleagues in the UNW. We came to a standstill and both parties agreed to send the agreement out. It's my understanding that the union will be recommending to vote no. I think it's unfortunate. However, Mr. Speaker, we are developing a plan and will be ready for a strike, should it occur. But it's certainly not the position of this government to advocate that at any time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 276-13(3): Statistics On Legal Services Clinics

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Justice. As we heard earlier in question period about the funding and the way it's split up between the different societies or legal aid clinics, I would like to know if the Minister will endeavour to find out the cases or workload on each of the different societies. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 276-13(3): Statistics On Legal Services Clinics

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 276-13(3): Statistics On Legal Services Clinics

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister finds the numbers that were mentioned today correct, will he then review -- he mentioned earlier that he would review that with the Legal Services Board -- the funding that would go with the cases that are being dealt with? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 276-13(3): Statistics On Legal Services Clinics

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if upon review of the client workload, there seems to be a perceived inequity in the funding in relation to the number of cases, I would certainly bring that to the attention of the Legal Services Board and ask them to explain the rationale for their funding allocations across the Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Roland, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 276-13(3): Statistics On Legal Services Clinics

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister then inform me of when this might occur?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 276-13(3): Statistics On Legal Services Clinics

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as soon as possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Question 277-13(3): GNWT Representative At Negotiations With Nanisivik Mines

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my Member's statement about the meeting in Nanisivik about the committee for Nanisivik Mines, they are due to meet this summer in Arctic Bay, and the Baffin regional director's position will be removed. I would like to ask the Premier who will be representing the GNWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question as notice and get back to the Member tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 278-13(3): Availability Of Housing For GNWT Staff

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past several weeks, it has been very obvious that the GNWT is moving aggressively to get out of the staff housing market. Can the Minister inform me and the House what we are putting in place to make sure that there are adequate housing units available for employees who are being transferred or posted between communities, to make sure that in actuality

there is housing available for them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Again, just to remind the Members that when they're asking a question of the Minister, that they say the Minister to whom they are asking the question. The Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the policy that covers staff housing is under the responsibility of the Financial Management Board Secretariat, so I'll take the question as notice on the Minister's behalf.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 279-13(3): Report On Meeting Of Premier's Panel

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Premier. In his statement, he talked of his panel on the economy and employment. I would like to know when we will be able to hear something back from this first meeting.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 279-13(3): Report On Meeting Of Premier's Panel

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my full intention to keep committees as well as all Members of this Assembly fully up to date on any recommendations that come out of this independent panel. I will do that immediately after we meet. So I will be keeping Members

fully up to date on all recommendations coming out of this panel. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 279-13(3): Report On Meeting Of Premier's Panel

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further on that issue, are you planning to hold meetings around the different communities?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Further Return To Question 279-13(3): Report On Meeting Of Premier's Panel

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a good idea, and we will look at that for sure to see if we can meet in other communities, at least in every region in the North, if that is possible. I think that's a very good idea, and I will put it forward to the panel as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 279-13(3): Report On Meeting Of Premier's Panel

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again on this issue, do you have a set agenda as to what types of opportunities you are looking for, or is that why you are meeting?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 279-13(3): Report On Meeting Of Premier's Panel

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no set agenda as of yet for the first meeting, but what we would like to have is a very frank discussion on what we can do as a government to attract investment to the North as well as create opportunities in the North; how we can work with the private sector; and how we can change regulations, rules or policies of this government that form hazards for business investment in the North. So, in general, what we would like to talk about is how

we can do business better to encourage investment and economic growth. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 279-13(3): Report On Meeting Of Premier's Panel

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those people who aren't on the panel and for people who can't get a hold of them, is there any other way of getting ideas in?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

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Further Return To Question 279-13(3): Report On Meeting Of Premier's Panel

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Already, as of today, I have received some ideas from other business people within the Northwest Territories. It seems that everybody writes to my office with their ideas of how to capitalize or how to get into private sector business government is doing already. So we'll entertain any idea or any suggestion that anyone from the Northwest Territories or from other areas of Canada has of how we can improve the North and get on with creating some jobs and opportunities in the North. All they have to do is get in touch with this government, and I'll make sure that there's an answer to their letter or we can use their ideas and take them to the panel. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 280-13(3): Responsibility For Pelly Bay Airport Project

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, some time ago, there was a news release regarding the construction of the airport in Pelly Bay. According to the news release, a group indicated its displeasure of having the hamlet council

of Pelly Bay being the project manager of this construction project.

The Minister of MACA and Transportation will recall the meeting we had with the mayor of Pelly Bay, myself and one representative from Pelly Bay; that the indication was all three parties -- in this case, MACA, Transportation and the hamlet council of Pelly Bay -had agreed that this would be the best approach. The hamlet of Pelly Bay has demonstrated in the past their ability to do the project. It has a very good track record. It has hired locally. It has provided training. According to the mayor of Pelly Bay and myself, the project was to go ahead.

Will the honourable Minister honour the decision that was made by the hamlet council of Pelly Bay and the government of this day to go ahead with the airport project with the hamlet council being the project manager? Will she agree that this project will go ahead as decided by three parties? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mrs. Thompson.

Return To Question 280-13(3): Responsibility For Pelly Bay Airport Project

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I fully understand his question, and I am aware of the situation. Whenever we can, we have to hire local people because they should be able to start managing their projects. I fully support that it should go through, and I will get my officials to look into this and will advise the Member of my findings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 281-13(3): Process For Replacement Of Supreme Court Justice

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice. With the recent retirement of Justice de Weerd, could the Minister inform this House of the process for the appointment of said replacement for the Honourable Justice de Weerd? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 281-13(3): Process For Replacement Of Supreme Court Justice

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As recently as about three weeks ago, I spoke to the federal Minister, the Honourable Allan Rock, about the possibility of filling the fourth Supreme Court position. He said he was going to take a look at it and advise me, and, as it now stands, we are waiting to hear back from that. I will also, Mr. Speaker, follow up the matter with the federal Justice Minister. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 281-13(3): Process For Replacement Of Supreme Court Justice

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I take it that this government would recommend certain names of individuals for this appointment?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 281-13(3): Process For Replacement Of Supreme Court Justice

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that is the process, Mr. Speaker, and if I'm incorrect, I'll advise the Member right away. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 281-13(3): Process For Replacement Of Supreme Court Justice

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, has the Minister looked at maybe having the position of the new justice who will be appointed placed in Nunavut, where we don't have that position at the present time?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 281-13(3): Process For Replacement Of Supreme Court Justice

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That would certainly be the first option the way I see it. In preparation for Nunavut and Nunavut itself having to establish its judicial system, it would make sense that there would be a Supreme Court that would have jurisdiction in the Nunavut area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to try my question again concerning housing, if that's permissible.

MR. SPEAKER:

I am sorry, Mr. Picco. The question was taken as notice. If you can, rephrase your question to the appropriate Minister.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of FMBS concerning staff housing. Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is aggressively moving out of the staff housing market. My question for the Minister is, what process have we put in place to make sure that -- for example, when employees are being moved intercommunity on new appointments or transfers -that there's adequate housing available for them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. It's the same question, Mr. Picco. I didn't hear it being rephrased, so I must rule that the question has already been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 282-13(3): Sale Of Staff Housing To GNWT Employees

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance with regard to the question of housing being transferred. Would you consider transferring units to government employees who may not be living in those residences but who may like to acquire these units, if the individuals who are living in them refuse to purchase them?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of the Financial Management Board, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 282-13(3): Sale Of Staff Housing To GNWT Employees

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The intention is, as I said earlier last week to a question, that the 500 plus units that are currently not being sold would once again be offered to our employees -- we will be writing to them very shortly -- at a substantive discount. Should the employees not purchase the units that they're currently in, we're working out the formula as to an appropriate process for the tendering of those units. I will take the comments by my honourable colleague, Mr. Krutko, into consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 282-13(3): Sale Of Staff Housing To GNWT Employees

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the short time frame we are looking at -- I believe it was August or September -- to try to have the arrangement wrapped up, is there a possibility the Minister could consider looking at the time frame to be extended to allow individuals who are not

living in those residences to consider that and work out the financial arrangements?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 282-13(3): Sale Of Staff Housing To GNWT Employees

HON. JOHN TODD:

I think it's important to point out that we have built a strategy into the budget that X amount of dollars will be available this year and next year. Certainly, we will take my honourable colleague's comments into consideration when Mr. Kakfwi and myself prepare the paper. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 282-13(3): Sale Of Staff Housing To GNWT Employees

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister inform this House when that decision is made so we are aware of the time frames that we are looking at, because it is kind of tight? I think the sooner we get this thing up and running, the better it will be for not only the government but also its employees.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 282-13(3): Sale Of Staff Housing To GNWT Employees

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the eternal optimist, I would genuinely hope that our employees who are in those houses will take advantage of the one-time opportunity we're going to give them to purchase them at significant discounts, Mr. Speaker. But I recognize what my honourable colleague is saying, I recognize that we built into the budget for this year and next year dollars based upon the sale of these houses, and we will move as quickly and as expeditiously as possible to accomplish that end, taking my colleague's comments into consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Barnabas.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 6-13(3): Nanisivik Mine Training And Employment Agreement

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

In June 1974, the Government of Canada signed an agreement with Mineral Resources International Limited. Under this agreement, the Commissioner and the Government of the Northwest Territories had certain obligations to northern residents in the areas of training and employment at the Nanisivik Mine.

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The 1974 agreement provides that the Commissioner is to appoint an employee of the Government of the Northwest Territories as a counsellor. This position was to provide information, guidance and assistance to northerners and their families with respect to job training and work and living conditions at Nanisivik Mine. Further, the counsellor would have the responsibility for arranging training and upgrading of education of northern residents, ensuring that the mine would have a workforce comprised of at least 60 per cent northern residents, and ensuring the employment objectives of the agreement were met.

Could the Minister please provide the following information:

1. Whether any GNWT employees were ever appointed to the position of counsellor, as provided for in the 1974 agreement, with their names and the dates and lengths of their appointment.
2. The current percentage of northern residents working at Nanisivik Mine, along with historical percentages of northern residents in the Nanisivik workforce over the life of the mine.

Copies of any minutes or reports of the Training and Employment Advisory Committee to have been established under the terms of the 1974 agreement.

4. Names of GNWT representatives who have served on the Strathcona Sound Monitoring Committee, along with the dates and lengths of their service.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to Opening Address. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise that a Member has filed two petitions under Rule 42(1). The first petition, Mr. Speaker, deals with the matter of MLA compensation report. Mr. Speaker, Petition No. 47-13(3) contains 23 signatures from residents of Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that the MLA compensation package be publicly debated and resolved.

Also, the second petition, Mr. Speaker, deals with the matter of the replacement of an existing and unsafe Arctic College building. Petition No. 48-13(3) is signed by 198 residents of Baker Lake who petition: 'We, the people of Baker Lake, petition the Minister of Education and the Board of Governors of Nunavut Arctic College to replace our existing and unsafe Arctic College building.'

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions, Motion 9-13(3). Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 9-13(3): Removal And Recovery Of Consumer Price Index Increase To Members' Allowances And Expenses, Carried

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. WHEREAS section 32.1 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act provides for an automatic annual increase to indemnities, allowances and expenses based on the consumer price index for Canada;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly enacted Bill 9 to reduce all indemnities payable to Members by seven per cent;

AND WHEREAS Bill 9 also repealed the provision that automatically provided an annual increase to indemnities;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act be

amended to eliminate all those provisions that permit an annual increase to allowances and expenses;

AND FURTHER, that the increase of 2.1 per cent to allowances and expenses that was effected April 1, 1996, be recovered from Members of the Legislative Assembly for all expenses and allowance payments made since that date.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question has been called. All those in favour? Mr. Miltenberger.

--- (Microphone turned off)

Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make short mention of the motion. According to the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, constituency expenses were tied to the consumer price index. Thus, on April 1 st of this year, it was an automatic increase of allowances and expenses of 2.1 per cent. Considering our effort to tackle the budget in all ways and means, I felt that it's in order for us to set an example and support this motion and eliminate the 2.1 per cent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue first came to my attention on April 9th, at which time I wrote to MSB. That's where I was told it should be brought to Caucus, which it was, so I'm happy to support a motion brought forward by the Member of Hay River that is through Caucus. I think it will put to rest an issue that has nagged us since then. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Steen.

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MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have no problem, personally, with the rollback of the 2.1 per cent. However, I don't believe that we're going to be helping the overall deficit situation all that much, with a 2.1 per cent rollback of our living allowance. I think if the public knew we were only talking about \$2 a day per Member, that there wouldn't be such a big outcry. My concern is I feel it would be far more effective for me to take that \$2 and give it to the first poor people I see, rather than funnel it through this government because it will never reach those poor people. That's the problem I have. It's going to end up in somebody's BIP.

--- Laughter

That's where I have a problem.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Are you finished, Mr. Steen?

--- Interjection

MR. SPEAKER:

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

(Translation) The chair would like to advise that I have reviewed Motion 10-13(3) which appears on the order paper for today. It is noted that Motion 9-13(3), which has just been carried, is on the same subject and, in fact, is identical to Motion 10-13(3). I therefore rule that Motion 10-13(3) cannot proceed and, by order, it is dropped from the order paper. Thank you.
(Translation ends)

---Motion 10-13(3) ruled out of order

Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 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; and, Tabled Document 1-13(3), Report of the Commission on MLA Compensation, with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The committee will come to order. When we concluded on Friday, we were dealing with Bill 11, Appropriation Act, 1996-97, and the

Department of Health and Social Services. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee wishes to continue the consideration of Health and Social Services, under the departmental review of Bill 11, Appropriation Act, 1996-97.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we have the concurrence of the committee to deal with Health and Social Services, as we did on Friday?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Bill 11, Appropriation Act, 1996-97

Department Of Health And Social Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

We will take a 10-minute break. Thank you.

--- SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The committee will come back to order. As I mentioned before the break, when we concluded, we were still reviewing the Health and Social Services 1996-97 main estimates. Before I call to go back to general comments, I would like to ask the Minister if he wishes to bring in any witnesses.

HON. KELVIN NG:

I would like to bring in my witnesses, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please escort the witnesses to the appropriate table? Thank you.

For the record, Mr. Minister, would you mind introducing the witnesses to the committee?

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Mr. Dave Ramsden, deputy minister; to my left is Mr. Warren St. Germaine, director of financial and management services. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are reviewing Health and Social Services on page 11-10. General comments? Should we get into line by line?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

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Line By Line

Directorate

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 11-10, directorate, operations and maintenance, \$2.206 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Support And Health Services Administration

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Support and health services administration, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$88.533 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Community Programs And Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community programs and services, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance \$143.988 million. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question to the Minister on health boards. What was the amount of reduction to the boards?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The dollar amount reduction to health boards was \$5 million for the 1996-97 fiscal year, which is approximately 10 per cent of their territorial hospital insurance services funding. That worked out to approximately 7.7 per cent of their total funding. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Total operations and maintenance, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did all the boards receive an equal reduction?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Generally speaking, the boards did receive the same reduction targets. However, in some circumstances, some boards, because of the loss of revenue through the sale of staff housing, received additional loss of revenues that affected their budgets, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total operations and maintenance, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the review by the Infrastructure committee, we discussed the revenues of the liquor system to the general revenues of the government. The discussion centred around directing money to alcohol education. Could the Minister tell us what

programs are now available for drug, alcohol and substance abuse education?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, primarily through the alcohol and drug programs at the community level.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

That was one of the desires of the committee I was on; that funds be directed at the community level to tackle drug and alcohol problems. What kind of money is being provided at the community level?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is \$160,000 at headquarters; \$336,000 in the Yellowknife area; \$709,000 in the Fort Smith area; \$344,000 in the Fort Simpson area; \$908,000 in the Inuvik region; \$656,000 in the Baffin; \$416,000 in the Keewatin; and, \$410,000 in the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community programs and services, total operations and maintenance, \$143.988 million. Agreed? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Just to follow up on those figures, I calculate that out to be in the neighbourhood of around \$3.2 million to \$3.6 million. The revenues that the territorial government raises from the sale of alcohol is in the neighbourhood of about \$15 million. Perhaps it will be reduced to about \$12 million. Does the Minister have in mind that perhaps in future years more money can be devoted to alcohol education and these particular programs, specifically to be directed at the community level where obviously there is a lot of need; here in Yellowknife as well as throughout the North? I would like to hear the Minister's comments on my question whether more money can be devoted and diverted to that particular program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over time, we are trying to make the alcohol and drug programs at the community level a bit more reflective and effective at the local level by some communities taking more of an initiative and taking on some of the programming through the current groups that are in existence in communities. I can't speak with respect to the revenue-generation through the sale of alcohol products because that money is in a different department and it goes back to the general consolidated revenue fund of the government, which finances all departments within the GNWT, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to programs and services in the area of alcohol and drugs, there are communities trying new initiatives. Myself and Mr. Minister have gone over the question of the TI'oondih

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Healing Society, which is the only program in Canada that deals with the whole family. There are a large number of instances where children are taken away from their families and put into care facilities over the Territories and in southern Canada. There is a large cost to incarcerating people due to drug and alcohol problems. We have to try to entice new ideas out there. The alcohol and drug programs have been around for several years, but we need to find new initiatives and consider spending resources on them. Is the department looking at new initiatives such as the TI'oondih program?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the honourable Member knows, the department has been more than flexible in providing funding in the past year to assist the TI'oondih operation, as I have stated in prior occasions to this House. We continue to try to work with the operators there in trying to identify new possible funding sources. As I mentioned earlier, one of the things we are in the process of freeing up is the extended health benefits funding so that if an alcohol and drug specialist refers a client to the TI'oondih healing camp, we would pay for their costs now.

We have allowed non-insured health benefits qualified individuals to be treated again at the TI'oondih healing camp. As we move towards more of a per them for all alcohol, drug and treatment facilities, moving away from core funding these facilities and there is more of an opportunity for clients to go to TI'oondih-type of operation, they will become available. By doing that, the program at TI'oondih would benefit from this less-restrictive funding arrangement, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Before I recognize Mr. Krutko, I would like to direct your attention momentarily, on behalf of Tommy Enuaraq and Levi Barnabas, to Mrs. Elisapee Enuaraq, Janet and Mrs. Susan Barnabas in the public gallery.

--- Applause

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Welcome to the House. My other question to the Minister is with regard to health benefits. You say the Metis aren't covered under the existing programs with regard to non-insured health benefits, but you are saying they will be covered under the health benefit program. As the Metis health benefit stands, they are only covered to a certain percentage. I believe it is 65 per cent. So will you pay for 100 per cent of the cost?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under extended health benefits funding program, any individual who would be referred to Tl'oondih, the entire cost would be covered by the department, regardless of whether they are non-aboriginal or Metis. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Roland. Mr. Steen and then Mr. Henry.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my question to the Minister is centred around the community of Holman Island. I am not sure which health board it falls under.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Holman falls under the jurisdiction of the Kitikmeot Regional Health Board, as it stands now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, is the department making plans to take into consideration Holman's relocation in the Western Arctic after division?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it stands now, no. It is my understanding that the municipality of Holman has asked our government to try to retain the funding of their services from the Kitikmeot boards. I don't know the status of discussions to date, but I imagine as we get closer towards division, those types of situations for interterritorial funding agreements would be flushed out more and firmed up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, obviously, after division the health boards would be funded by two separate governments based on the people or the communities in their regions. At some point in time, we have to realize that Holman is in the Western Arctic and, therefore, would be included in the Inuvik health board. I am wondering how else we can see this happening.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would say no different than some of our clients from the Territories now going out to Edmonton, Winnipeg or Montreal for some of their health care services where we have arrangements with those hospital authorities to provide services for our residents. Or, after 1999, the Kitikmeot residents will still be coming to Yellowknife for their medical services. So there would be an arrangement made between one government and another where they would pay for the cost of their

constituents to be serviced by the other governments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, I am not so concerned about where Holman residents are going to get their treatment from. I think what we are talking about here is the representation on the board. For instance, I understand that the Inuvik board is supposed to be representing all the people in the Inuvialuit claim. There is talk about the IRC being

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represented on that board versus the communities. I presume the Gwich'in will be represented by their chief as well.

That is what I am talking about. It is the political representation rather than where they get the treatment. Of course, there is the amount of funding that the boards get. I can't see myself or anyone else representing that area in the future having to go and sit in the Nunavut government in order to get representation for Holman. That is what I am trying to address here, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, do we have a clear directive or guideline? Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there is no clear guideline as it stands now. This is the first time we will be dividing the Territories. As we go ahead towards 1999, it is one of the issues that will have to be resolved prior to that happening. Of course, we would look for some direction from community leaders and the current political representatives of Holman, which includes Mr. Steen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total operations and maintenance, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Could he say that in plain English?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Chairman, it would be up to what the political leaders of the day decide -- including yourself, Mr. Steen -- on how they would want to deal with this issue of funding for all government services for Holman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, I understand the Minister to say that we are going to work this out some time between now and 1999. How do we get the communities involved here so we can work this out? Is his department planning to approach the community or planning to approach the boards?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I believe the Minister is seeking direction. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it isn't a specific Department of Health issue. It encompasses more than one department. I would think it is a government-wide issue on how they are going to deal with the funding for Holman. I believe it is something that will probably have to be addressed through the Premier's office because of their overlap between departments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are reviewing the main estimates for 1996-97. If the Minister wishes to respond to 1999 and thereafter, he can. He isn't compelled to answer, but if he wishes to answer to the question of the estimate for 1999 and thereafter, it is his prerogative. But we are dealing with the budget of 1996-97. Total operations and maintenance. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, on page 11-12, it refers to the hospital boards, and that is why I am asking the question. I am not talking about what happens in 1999. I am talking

about how my communities get representation today and how this government plans to address that for the future, as well. Now, what they do today is going to be reflected in what happens in the future, obviously. That's why I ask the question, and I think it was in order. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Was that a question, Mr. Steen?

MR. STEEN:

No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total operations and maintenance. We have Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Friday, Mr. Evaloarjuk brought up a concern and led some discussion in the area of spousal abuse and shelters. I think he raised an excellent point: Why does the department assist in removing the victim rather than the perpetrator? I understand that in most of the communities in the Northwest Territories, we do have an active police force. We also have JPs. My question to the Minister: Has he or his department, given some consideration to assisting victims in attaining restraining orders against perpetrators so that the victim and family can stay in their home surroundings? I think they've been traumatized enough by the situation without removing them from their present situation. So, again, my question to the Minister is, has he given any consideration to working with communities or families that find themselves in that situation to take advantage of restraining orders that would be available? Thank you.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't answer specifically if we would help them with restraining orders or not. It would depend on the circumstances. But I can say that is why we fund the counsellors and the family violence shelters within the communities and the support services to provide some of that assistance and counselling to the victims to see what options they have. Unfortunately, as I spoke of earlier on this

matter, it is often the victim who has to be removed from the community because that's all that's allowed at this stage. There's no legislative requirement or authority for us to remove the perpetrator. Until we get to the point where it's not a commonly-accepted occurrence within communities and the community deals with it, we're hoping that some of the community-based justice reform that we're doing through the Department of Justice, in conjunction with the other partners, will try to identify and reach some kind of mechanism where we can make this type of a situation a lot more comfortable and accommodating for the victims of these types of actions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total operations and maintenance. We have Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under family support, there is a great need in our region for a family boarding home like we have here in Yellowknife for the

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Kitikmeot mothers who come here for maternity, out of their communities. In our region, there is a lot of overcrowding in the houses, and it keeps coming up. I wonder, has the Minister been informed of this or is he addressing this? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding that currently, in Iqaluit, they use predominantly boarding residences, private boarding homes. It is becoming more of an issue because of the increased demand and the increased population of expectant mothers, so it is something where there has just been some preliminary discussions with the Baffin health board on this matter, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community programs and services. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

No, that's okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Okay. Thank you. On the page, we have Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make reference to the Northern Addictions Centre for youth here in Yellowknife. The Minister did answer a question on it last week for Mr. Henry, but I would just like to make some comments on it and then get a question answered by the Minister.

This addictions centre seems to me to be an extremely valuable one in that it trains individuals throughout the North to be support services in the communities for those youth who are in the centre here and when they go back to the communities. It's not only in the Northwest Territories -where, I believe, in the coming week, 17 people from the Baffin area will be trained -- but also people have attended here from the Yukon and from British Columbia. They are finding that this particular program is an extremely good example of what can be done in addictions services. So I feel it is also a service that's provided for youth from throughout the Northwest Territories. It isn't just youths from this particular area, but children are coming from all communities.

I am wondering if the Minister could tell us if he has an update on his reply to the question last week of what action we can expect to be taken on providing funding to keep this centre going.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The preliminary discussions with Northern Addictions Services staff and ourselves, the departmental staff, have taken place about the possibility of changing the scope of the detox program that is currently provided. For adults, they are looking at some alternatives, and I say again, this is the preliminary stage now, to see if there is a possibility of other agencies providing the detox program for adults so that we

can divert some of those funds into the youth substance abuse program, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. My apology; I indicated my thanks to Mr. Henry when in fact it was Mr. Ootes. It is Mr. Ootes; my apology. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, you did say Mr. Ootes. Thank you. I wonder, since there's a time crunch problem for the Northern Addictions program for youth, if the Minister could tell us if he might be able to solve this problem within the next month?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that I made a commitment that I would try to have some options lined up, presented to myself, by the early part of June, so that I can make a decision on the possibility of the continuation of funding for this youth substance abuse program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total operations and maintenance, \$143.988 million. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get back to a statement the Minister made. He said that the political leaders in the community of Holman indicated they would like to be represented in the Kitikmeot. I would like to know what political body this is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Steen and myself were at a meeting with some of the Kitikmeot Regional Council representatives. At that time, the mayor, Garry Bristow, was the one who spoke on the matter. There has also been some written correspondence on that, but I would have to confirm that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, there should be a question very shortly as to which political body this government recognizes. I would like to know at what point this will happen. I wonder what political body Mr. Ng's department would recognize as a spokesman for the hamlet of Holman. Would it be the hamlet council, the community corporation or the IRC?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would think that it would be the municipality which are the publicly elected officials of the community. They are the ones I would start dealing with in trying to resolve these matters, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community programs and services, total operations and maintenance, \$143.988 million. Mr. Krutko.

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Committee Motion 6-13(3): Core Funding To The Tl'oondih Healing Society, Carried

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move a motion. I move that this committee request the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Executive Council immediately enter into negotiations with the Tl'oondih Healing Society in an effort to provide core funding to the society at the same level as provided to other institutions providing a similar service, so as to ensure the long-term liability of the Tl'oondih healing program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion was circulated and translated into the appropriate language. To the motion. The Minister is reviewing the motion. To the motion. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Being on the Social Programs committee, we have been concerned from

the start about slippage and not being able to meet the targets we have. I would be interested in knowing where we anticipate finding this money. If it is going to be taken from somewhere, where would that be? That is my concern. I don't know if the Minister can answer that. If the Minister can't answer it, I will just make it a comment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would envision if we were to follow the motion in trying to establish core funding for the Tl'oondih operation for this current fiscal year, we would have to revise existing spending limits within current targets to accommodate this matter. For future years, it is a different matter. As it stands now, Mr. Chairman, it would cause some reallocation of other alcohol and drug treatment facilities that are in operation throughout the Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. We have Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have a question on this. When we speak of core funding at the same level, I wonder if the Minister might be able to tell me what we are talking about in dollars.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Chairman, currently in our residential alcohol and drug facilities, we fund four facilities to the tune of \$3.895 million proposed for the 1996-97 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Erasmus and Mr. Henry. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Gwich'in for starting their healing program and their centre, and for establishing it using

a lot of their own money. I would like to indicate that I am also on the Social Programs committee and we have already worked on the budget and there is only a certain amount of money that is in this area. Considering the fact that there is

already existing government-funded institutions that have already lost some funding and considering the fact that they use solvent abuse programs -- that is, in Yellowknife but which services all of the Northwest Territories and is already in serious difficulty and funds have to be found elsewhere -it isn't the right time to look at providing similar funding to this institution.

I do support its work, but I don't think we have the resources to do this. If money is to be diverted to this institution, it would mean that the other existing institutions would have to lose some funding. So it is very difficult for me to do this. I would have certainly preferred to have more time to think about such a very important motion. Knowing what I know about the process we have gone through, it is very difficult for me to support this. For such an important thing, we should have been given more warning and had more time to consider this. I am a great proponent of this type of rehabilitation, but it places me in a very difficult situation, Mr. Chairman. I want to support this but I also know there are limited funds and I don't wish to take funds from already existing government programs like rehabilitation centres.

I just wanted to express that it places me, and several other people who also feel that this is a worthwhile cause and a worthwhile project, in a very difficult situation. Perhaps we could have more warning next time so we could discuss it more fully and with more thought without having to vote in a short time period. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We have a number of honourable Members who want to speak. We have Mr. Henry, Mr. Enuaraq and Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of the questions I needed responses to were addressed by Mr. Erasmus. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy the Member for Mackenzie Delta feels strongly about this. I also want to let you know that I am on the Social Programs committee. When there isn't enough funding to go around, it is quite difficult to reallocate funds. I have a concern with regard to the motion. If it is voted on and passed, we will have to try to find extra funding for that. I like the idea of the motion, but I don't think I will be able to support it when we have a shortage of funding. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We keep hearing about a shortage of funding. I am not on the Social Programs committee, but one thing I have not heard adequately addressed yet is how much of the funding that we could be spending on facilities in the North are we spending on facilities in the South. We talk about repatriation, but I don't see much of it happening. In my opinion -and I could be wrong on this -- at this point in

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time, he is paying lip service to repatriation and we are spending millions of dollars in southern institutions. So when you ask where the money is going to come from, I would suggest the money is going to come from not paying to send people out to really expensive facilities in southern Canada. I support, as I think this government does, people receiving treatment in their own regions and communities.

We talk about community empowerment and we talk about people dealing with their own problems in their own ways. I would say that providing funding to such a facility has got to be in keeping with what this government is saying at this time. Until we know exactly what we are spending in southern institutions, I don't know how anybody could answer the question of where the money is going to come from, but I would suggest that would be a good place to start. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like more clarification on the service. It says: "...similar service, so as to ensure the long-term viability of the Tl'oondih healing program." What are we talking about? How long?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Perhaps the mover of the motion could respond to Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

As it sits right now, they are funding institutions around the North and southern institutions that have yearly contracts. This is the only facility that operates under funds that are allocated under programs such as noninsured health benefits, which is a federal program for status and Inuit people. Because of that, this is the only program that has an opportunity to look at the family unit as an individual group. In our communities, I grew up with suicide all around me. I saw my best friend with his head blown off. I packed kids to the hospital with their faces blown off. Yet, people don't seem to worry about those people. They are more concerned about where we are going to get our money from. We are sending people to southern institutions at a cost of \$40,000 per person. That works out to 10 people at \$400,000. No one has a problem with that. We just approved a budget where we are funding southern institutions. We have been sending people to Poundmakers and to Henwood.

We are talking about empowering communities and taking over authority for the North, yet you don't see that with regard to this budget. They are just given the crumbs to administer. If you look at the cost of wages and benefits and O and M costs of running the Department of Health and Social Services, they don't have any problem spending the money at that level. When it comes down to dealing with people and trying to get them back into society ... I just mentioned that an old lady passed away in McPherson this weekend. That was her grandson who ran over her. How is he going to deal with it? He backed over his grandmother and the poor guy is in jail because they are scared he is going to kill himself. What do you do in that case?

You all seem to have no problem approving a few million for docks and a few million for other institutions, but when it comes to a moral and health issue that deals with people's lives, you are willing to take kids away from them and throw people in jail.

You are all backing off and saying we don't know where we are going to get the money from. Who is going to pay the \$500 a day to incarcerate a person? Who is going to pay \$1,000 a month to put a kid in someone's home? Who is going to take care of those families when they are broken up? What do you have in place for that? Nothing. This is the only program in the North we have that is directed at that problem. Yet, when it comes down to it, it is hush-hush.

So for those people who know what it is like to live with death around them and deal with people's lives in general because of alcoholism, sexual abuse and things like that, this is the program for you. I am saying it because I went through it. Nine of my best friends blew their heads away. Three of them I saw, personally, and took them to the hospital. I have seen people die of alcoholism. We are now finally seeing some results and people here seem to be scared for a simple operation. We can spend \$40,000 to send someone to Bellwood because they have a problem; but when it comes to a program like this that is going to cost under \$2,000 a person, you have a major problem with it. There are 250 people on the waiting list to get into this program. Something is wrong with this picture.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear! Hear!

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree fully with the speaker. I would also like him to know that money isn't the reason we have problems. Our problem is with people who are organizing things. I have been through this before with young people and elders. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to state for the record, with respect to alcohol and drug treatment southern referrals for non-medical referrals, the 1994-95 referrals totalled 282. In the 1995-96 year, that dropped down to under 50, since we've tried to keep our clientele in the Northwest

Territories, to be treated by the alcohol and drug treatment centres that we have here.

With respect to the medical referrals that have to be sent down south right now because we don't have insured facilities that have medical capabilities to provide some of the treatment that's required; in 1994-95, we spent approximately \$698,000. In 1995-96, that dropped down to approximately \$500,000. That's for the medical insured services, Mr. Chairman.

With respect to continuing to work at repatriating or providing more of the services in the North, we are continuing to do that. As I had indicated earlier, our department officials are planning on meeting with the

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Medical Association. There have been some preliminary discussions between the NWT Medical Association and some of the treatment centre operators to try and resolve some of the differences that would allow for referrals of clients to our northern facilities from the medical profession. That would open up a whole new avenue of funding for our treatment centres.

We're streamlining the referral policy for our clientele, again, in conjunction with the treatment centre operators, of which the Tl'oondih operators are also a part. There is a major meeting planned at the Tl'oondih Healing Camp next month, I believe, with all the treatment centre operators and our department officials, to discuss some of the initiatives that started off last month with respect to the new referral process, trying to establish some of the marketing strategy of the treatment centres, to try not to compete with each other and to provide alternative types of service, to make the physicians more aware of their services and the public, as well. They are also going to discuss some of the accreditation and insured facilities problems or issues that prohibit some of them now from receiving clients.

There is a lot of discussion and a lot of movement being made in trying to shore up all treatment centres that we have in the Northwest Territories to try to provide some additional support through opening up the avenues for their clientele and with that, the funding sources, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question. The Minister alluded to amounts of money that were being spent in the South and you had suggested, I believe, in 1995-96, you had spent \$500,000. I would like a clear, definitive answer; you had alluded to it slightly. Are the services that you are sending people south for, are they available in the Territories? Or this is strictly services that are not available in the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it's my understanding that these services aren't available in the Northwest Territories treatment centres now. Primarily because of the medical component that's required, because of some of the medications that are required for some of the clients that are referred to these institutions. As it stands now, before there's any southern referral, it has to be approved by the department staff. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion, Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

I would like to have an answer about how much is provided already to the institution in question and how much is core funding? Is it \$50 million, \$10 million? What is the amount of core funding that would be needed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of core funding in itself is a variable because of the fact that

the treatment centres, as I indicated earlier, met approximately eight weeks ago, and they've accepted the fact that, starting July 1st of this year, we're going to be -of the four centres that we operate -providing 75 per cent of their funding as basic core funding and 25 per cent of their funding based on a per them basis. In other words, how many clients go through their programs. That will shift to a 50/50 basis starting April 1, 1997, and it will go down to a 25 per cent core

funding, 75 per cent per them in the following fiscal year, with the intent that by April 1, 1999, 100 per cent of all their funding will be received from a per them basis.

With respect to the TI'oondih operation, we fund them, we've given them a \$300,000 advance for this fiscal year to help them continue to operate based on their per them charges for their clientele now; which I believe is \$100 for adults, \$75 for youth and \$50 for children. They will submit invoices against that \$300,000, based on referrals and based on those rates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Do I understand, then, that the healing centre, right now, is funded under the same principle as you propose this government go to in 1999, in that it's going to be 100 per cent per diem?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would anticipate that by 1999 all treatment centres, as I indicated, would be funded based on a per them of how many people would be going through their programs. As it stands now, the TI'oondih operation is funded on a per diem, based on the amount of clients that go through the program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, I would like some information. What is the capacity of this centre?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The mover of the motion should be able to answer that question about the facility that you refer to in the motion. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, they have run programs with up to 40 people, with an average of 35. They are able to sustain that large a group.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Could the Minister indicate to me how that compares to the centre in Inuvik?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Inuvik Delta House has a 12-bed capacity; Northern Addictions Services has a 20-bed capacity; Inuusiqsiurvik in

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Iqaluit has 18 beds; and, Nats' ejee K'eh in Hay River has 30 beds. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

I just want to clarify this point on core funding. To date, the \$300,000 that has been allocated is basically for services with regard to the non-insured health benefits program, which is a program through Indian Affairs for aboriginal groups, status Indian and Inuit; that is the only group who can access the \$300,000. This is based on the per them which the Minister mentioned: \$100 per adult, \$75 per youth and \$50 per child. We are paying people \$1,000 per month to take children from their homes to put them into care units in Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Hay River, yet we have no problem with paying \$1,000 per month, which averages out to approximately \$33 day.

This is the kind of money which you have to justify: The individual cost of \$50 per child versus the cost of that to society and the youth. We are finding that more and more of our children are being taken away. We say what we are doing today is for the next generation. There's not too much hope for the next

generation as it stands right now, especially with regard to education and jobs.

If you review our statistics, it boggles my mind; you can incarcerate people, take children away, deal with the cost of courts, yet we have no problem with that. Under another program, we've lobbied for this initiative with the federal government and private industry, and this government. Who are we here for are for the big boys in industry or for the little people who can't stand up for themselves, who basically don't have a hope in life of obtaining a lifestyle where they can basically say that they were a success. Instead, they're just another statistic: this is how many people who are incarcerated; this many people are in groups homes; or, this many people are alcohol or drug cases. Sooner or later you have to put faces to these statistics.

We have no problem paying for the costs of medevacs or sending people out because they've tried to commit suicide. I find it appalling, we act as if our eyes are closed, yet reality is in front of us, we see it every day, we hear it on the news. A guy was just killed on the Fort Rae highway over the weekend; an old lady was run over in Fort McPherson because of alcohol. We have no problem with those things. It's just news which has happened and so what. Soon that "so what" is going to cost us in incarcerating the young people, having to build new jails and other institutions. We must deal with this today or we're going to have to deal with it sooner or later, and every one of us as taxpayers is going to have to pay for it. This is why I'm saying the initiative is unique in Canada; unique in the sense of aboriginal people who consider themselves a family unit from the grandfather to the infant. This is something which we are losing touch with.

With regard to the motion, the motion is saying it's a process for the government to sit down and negotiate; it's not telling them that we're going to take any money out of any programs. It's saying sit down with these people and negotiate. The word is "negotiate," enter into negotiations.

Negotiations are never over until they're over. I don't know why everyone is assuming that the outcome is already made up, that they are going to get funding, but at least give them the opportunity to sit down with this government to try to negotiate the process through. This is all we're asking for. This is all the motion says. It doesn't say they are going to get dollars at the end of the day. The wording of the agreement is "enter into negotiations."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We have Mr. Erasmus and Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Erasmus, to the motion.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know when the healing centre opened.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

It was February 1995.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

What is the success rate of the people who have gone through the program? How many of them are still sober?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

I don't have those statistics. From the individuals who have gone through the program, 97 per cent completed the program; three per cent dropped out, for one reason or another. With regard to the other part of this program, follow-up, we are working out a program with the federal government to look at revenues to deal with that aspect of it. Right now, the alcohol and drug programs and counsellors we have in the North are not qualified to deal with people who do come out of these programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Is the program full every time it's run?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Yes, it has been. There's 250 people on a waiting list. All events have been booked. If people try to get in at the last minute, if someone is referred to the program ... If there's someone who cannot make it, there are people to fill those beds.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, how much money are we talking about if this program was to be funded to the same level as the other treatment centres?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

With regard to the program and the number of clients, it is in the range of \$750,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

To the motion. Mr. O'Brien.

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MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the most part, I would support the motion. I have some concern with the amount of dollars we'd have to commit to this program. Generally, we've talked about empowerment.

--- Interjection

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Can we have order. A Member is speaking to the motion. I would like to remind everyone to respect others while dealing with an important motion such as the motion from the honourable Mr. Krutko. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've talked about empowerment for the communities and this is where it starts; aboriginals looking after aboriginals. I've indicated I have some concern with the level of funding. It states in the motion that they are asking that we enter into negotiations with the various

parties. There's no guarantee that funding will be found. At least this is a start. On that basis, I can support Mr. Krutko's motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

This is the last thing I will say. We are asking where the money is going to come from. Where's the money coming from now for \$300 per day to Bosco Homes; \$100 per day for a troubled child in a foster home; \$200 per day for Mitchener Centre for mentally handicapped people who could be home, who have mild disabilities; \$6,500 per month at Mitchener Centre, with 27 NWT residents there, that's over \$2 million per year to the Mitchener Centre. Where does the money come from now? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The best thing for us to get some results in the future ... Perhaps this is an area where we should make an investment. There's 250 people on a waiting list. There's certainly a demand. We should find a way to increase the money in the area of alcohol and drug abuse. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, please signify. All those against the motion, please signify. The motion is carried.

--- Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 11-12, total operations and maintenance, \$143.988 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Details of capital, community programs and services, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$1.045 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Buildings and works, Fort Smith, total region, \$3.177 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Next page, detail of capital, community programs and services, buildings and works, Baffin, total region ... Sorry, I am missing one; my mistake. Page 11-13, total buildings and works, Inuvik, total region, \$519,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. My apologies. Detail of capital, community programs and services, buildings and works, Baffin, total region, \$317,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Buildings and works, Keewatin, total region, \$803,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Buildings and works, Kitikmeot, total region, \$619,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you very much. Total buildings and works, \$6.48 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$790,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total equipment acquisition, \$790,000.

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Contributions, headquarters, total region, \$1.545 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, Inuvik, total region, \$9.188 million. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question for the Minister on this area of the now hospital that's proposed. This government entered into an agreement with the federal government -- I believe it was in 1988 -- for the transfer of the hospitals and, at that time, there was an agreement put in place that there was \$1 million a year to be transferred over to this government for the hospitals being built. Can the Minister tell me if those monies are in this capital or put aside in a reserve of some sort? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money that was received from the federal government for the hospitals has been put into the GNWT's consolidated revenue fund since receipt. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Inuvik, total region. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So these monies aren't put aside specifically for the hospitals. You've got it down here in future years anticipated. Is that money expected to come out of general revenue when the building starts? Thank you,

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct; there has been no reserve or other mechanism established to identify these prepayments that have been received to date. It will have to come out of the departmental budgets or the government's overall

fiscal outlook over the next few years, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total region, Inuvik. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question on the next hospital coming up here in Iqaluit and the difference between the amounts. Is there a reason why? I know there's a higher cost of construction, but is it because of population or what?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. His question is indirectly related to the Inuvik region. I will allow the question. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct; the difference is as a result of two primary

reasons: one, because of the higher cost of construction in the Arctic area, and, two, there is also a larger catchment area in the Baffin versus Inuvik, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total region, Inuvik. I indicated \$1.988 million. It is, in fact, \$1.983 million for this area.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, Baffin, total region, \$2.638 million. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question that was referred to earlier on the placement of a community when Nunavut comes about in 1999 in the hospital boards. What catchment area is Iqaluit based on?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

It's based on the current administrative structure of the Baffin region.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, Baffin. Mr. Roland, are you okay for now? Okay. We have Mr. Barnabas and we also have Mr. Henry. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

I have a motion. I think maybe Mr. Henry should speak first before I present this motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you very much, Mr. Barnabas, for your patience. Mr. Henry, to the Baffin region contributions. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is, in future years, when is this \$44 million proposed and being spent? It would also equate to the same question for Inuvik: When in future years is this proposed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On the forecast, Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

To which hospital are you referring?

MR. HENRY:

The Iqaluit and the Inuvik hospitals. They are both under future years anticipated.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The bulk of the construction, if you want to call it that, for Inuvik would be, as it is proposed now, in the 1998-99 fiscal year and for Iqaluit, evenly split between the 1998-99 and 1999-2000 fiscal years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total region, \$2.639 million. Mr. Barnabas.

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Committee Motion 7-13(3): Priority Hospital Facilities In Inuvik And Iqaluit, Carried

MR. BARNABAS:

Qujannamiik, Iksivautaaq. (Microphone turned off) ... recommends to the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Executive Council that replacement of the existing hospitals in Inuvik and Iqaluit be a major capital priority of the Department of Health and Social Services; and further, in keeping with the terms of the health transfer agreement, that the Government of the Northwest Territories work closely with the Government of Canada so as to begin construction for both of these major facilities within the term of the 13th Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is in order and has been circulated to the Members. To the motion. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The replacement or major upgrading of these two very old hospitals was a major part of the negotiations between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada. The responsibility for delivering health services in the Northwest Territories was transferred from the federal government to our government in 1987. Mr. Chairman, when the transfer was concluded, written agreements were signed between the two governments. It is quite clear that the federal government promised, in those agreements, that the cost of replacement or major upgrading of these two hospitals serving the Inuvik and Baffin regions would be cost-shared by the federal government. Mr. Chairman, the portion of the costs which the federal government promised to pay was the ratio of the proportion of aboriginal people in the population of the region in which the new hospital was to be located.

In the case of the Baffin region, the formula works very much in our favour. Since over 80 per cent of the population of the Baffin is Inuit, this means that the government is legally bound and committed to paying over 80 per cent of the cost of our new hospital. Mr. Chairman, this hospital is sometimes called the Iqaluit hospital. I would emphasize the hospital serves the

entire Baffin region. I believe patients come to the Baffin hospital from time to time. I know they are welcome since our hospital has many experienced Inuit staff. The outpatients department of the Baffin Regional Hospital sees over 10,000 per year. This is almost the equivalent of the entire population of the Baffin. The hospital is used by many more people than those who live in Iqaluit.

A lot of good work has been done in planning what the new hospital should do. There is a strong need to modernize this hospital for the 1990s and beyond. For example, right now there are no appropriate facilities for people who are seriously mentally ill. There's a need for chronic care for the elders in our region. There's a need for a hospice for the dying. Many of these needs can and should be met in our communities. It is apparent that more services should be provided in the Baffin hospital rather than sending patients to Montreal. I believe we can benefit from the experience of the Stanton Regional Hospital. In that hospital, according to the plans, specialists are recruited and paid on salary to establish in the North. Working in the Stanton Regional

Hospital in the short-term while medical travel and hospitalization costs decreased. Stanton found that attracting surgeon specialists to the North was a lot more cost effective than relying on those same services to be delivered in very expensive Edmonton hospitals.

Mr. Chairman, this new hospital will not only replace a very old facility but it will also allow us to modernize our health care delivery system in the whole region. We are very fortunate in the Baffin and Inuvik regions that we can rely on the binding legal commitment from the federal government to guarantee that the major part of the funding which will be required to build these new facilities. Mr. Chairman, I include the Inuvik Regional Hospital in my motion in order to seek support from my honourable colleagues from the Inuvik region. Two hospitals were promised by the federal government in the same agreement signed when health was transferred to our government. I will let my honourable colleagues from the Inuvik region discuss their hospital and the need in their region, since that is the area in which they were elected to represent.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that all Members will be able to support this motion. It is very important to the mayor and MLAs of our regions. The motion does not say that these new hospitals are the only capital priorities. It simply says that they are the major capital priorities.

A lot of money has already been spent on previous years planning these new facilities. I believe the federal government has already transferred some of the promised funds to the GNWT in past years. Communities have been extensively consulted. We are on the verge of proceeding to the design phase. This will be a major task. There will be a sizeable cost to our government even though our share is much less than the federal government's share. However, Mr. Chairman, this is a chance to invest in an improved health system and improved facilities. This is a chance to modernize our health care delivery system to take advantage of the very latest ways of delivering health services most effectively and efficiently in the North. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are dealing with a motion. To the motion, Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some very grave reservations about this motion. It's not that I don't want to see Inuvik or Iqaluit updating a hospital. The Keewatin doesn't have a hospital. I'd be anxious to hear, from the Minister, where this money is going to come from to update these two facilities, or to build new ones.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, I believe there was a question from the Member for Kivallivik.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money will be cost shared by the federal and territorial governments based on finalizing the numbers of the catchment areas for the proportion of cost sharing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion, Mr. O'Brien.

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MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In these previous agreements, where does the Keewatin fit into the equation in relationship to hospital and hospital care.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not being the previous Health Minister who undertook the negotiations, I cannot say definitively. I can say from what I understand it is for replacement of existing hospitals. This was factored into the negotiations. At that time, Inuvik and Iqaluit had hospitals and Yellowknife had undergone a major construction of the new Stanton Regional Hospital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. We have Mr. Henry, Mr. Ootes and then Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I heard the Minister correctly, the federal government contributes 85 per cent of this funding.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The actual figures haven't been finalized yet but, generally speaking, for the Baffin region we're looking at between 80 to 85 per cent based on the proportion of aboriginals to non-aboriginals; and, for Inuvik, 70 to 75 per cent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much has been transferred to GNWT for these two projects in the last number of years?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, since April 1, 1988 until March 31, 1996, there has been \$9.6 million received. There will be another \$1.4 million received in the 1996-97 year. The reason for this, Mr.

Chairman, is that there is an escalator factor for the million dollar base on the transfer amounts. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I worked my figures out at 85 per cent for both. They'll be a little bit off but from my calculations, the GNWT would need to come up with \$10.5 million to build both of these units. I realize that it's going to be a little more than that, probably in the area of \$12 million because of Inuvik being funded less by the federal government at the 75 per cent range. In the area of \$12 million, Minister is telling me that approximately \$9.6 million has been received already for these hospitals to be constructed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Yes, I said \$9.6 million has been received to the fiscal year ending March 31, 1996.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

To the motion. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Am I correct in understanding that if there was an additional \$2.5 million that the GNWT came up with, added to the \$9.6 million, that would put them in the position of being able to construct these hospitals? How much does the territorial government have to come up with then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this \$9.6 million that I'm referring to is a prepayment from the federal government to the territorial government for their share, a portion of their share of the total capital costs for these projects. Once the final figures are determined and the final proportionate share -- based on, I would imagine, this census -- it would probably

firm-up the figures a lot closer as far as percentages of aboriginal to non-aboriginal in the two catchment areas, then further work will be undertaken to cost-out these major capital projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I have cut off Mr. O'Brien without realizing that he was going to ask a supplementary to his original question. So we have Mr. O'Brien and then Mr. Erasmus. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the Minister is regarding the federal funding that we have already received, the \$9.6 million. Is this money that's been placed in a reserve -- I may have missed something along the way here -- or is it money that has been expended and we have to go elsewhere to find it and if so, where will it come from?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier, it hasn't been set aside in a reserve, it's gone into the general revenue fund of the Government of the Northwest Territories. The money would have to come from the general consolidated revenue fund of the Government of the Northwest Territories in future year's allocations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the Minister looked at what the impact is going to be on future programs by trying to find this money?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Qujannamiik. Merci. Mahsi. Manna. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, to date, we haven't, Mr. Chairman. Recognizing that it is a significant number of dollars that we will be dealing with, we've

been trying to manage, as it stands now, on this year's budget, recognizing that there will have to be some

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kind of allowance made for these major capital projects in future years. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. We have Mr. Ootes and Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Perhaps the Minister could brief us on what the original time frame was for the construction of these hospitals, both for starting dates and for completion dates. I understand that the money this year is mostly for planning, design and so forth.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Multi-year planning, Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's a detailed agreement, I just don't know if we can provide the information right now but I can certainly provide it to the Members of this House, if that's what they so wish, at a later date. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

The reason for my concern is because the motion reads that it be a major capital priority but then later in the motion it says: "That the GNWT work closely with the federal government to begin construction of both these major facilities within the term of the 13th Assembly." I presume that this was going to be started anyway in this 13th Assembly. Let me ask a further question: The funding that's provided from the federal government for these facilities, when we speak of the 85 per cent, 80 per cent or, in the case of Inuvik, perhaps 75 per cent, is that above the federal transfer payments that we receive on the formula financing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, this is over and above the formula financing agreement arrangements that we have because of the health transfer agreement that took place that was signed off in 1988. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. We have Mr. Erasmus and Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Erasmus. No. Then we have Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question. I asked this question earlier, or at least I thought I did. I'll ask it again in a redrafted form. To the Minister, what provisions, if any, are being made to provide for health care in hospital facilities in the Keewatin? I understand that the Keewatin health board has been working on a plan for the past two years. Where does this plan fit into the overall scheme of things in relation to what we are speaking about today, these two new hospitals in Inuvik and Iqaluit? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. What's in it for us? Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as it stands now, there are no plans for a hospital per se of the same magnitude as Inuvik or Iqaluit. It would be to continue to provide the services to the health board at the health centre level and try to repatriate some of the services that are currently not provided within the Keewatin region. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

O'Brien.

Thank you. To the motion. Mr.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister stating that there are no plans for a hospital in the Keewatin?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department, in conjunction with the Keewatin Regional Health Board, is working on a complete needs assessment for the Keewatin region to identify exactly what needs are within the region. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

There is a tendency to move away from this motion. I would like to try to stick to the motion. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, I have some serious reservations about this motion. We are at a point where we don't have a plan in place for the Keewatin. We are looking at building two new hospitals -- one in Iqaluit and one in Inuvik -which we don't have the money for. I am very concerned as to what the impact will be in the Keewatin and their future plans for medical care, given the fact that we find ourselves in this very embarrassing financial situation. So, once again, I have extreme concerns about this particular motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We have Mr. Erasmus and Mr. Roland.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When are these two facilities currently slated to be built?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier, for Inuvik, the bulk of the construction is planned for 1998-99. For Iqaluit, it is planned for 1999 and the year 2000. Almost equally, that is the bulk of the construction over those two years. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

So when does the term of this Legislative Assembly end?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. According to my understanding, the term of the Legislature will end April 1, 1999. Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the current plan, it is already planned to start construction on these two facilities before the term of this Legislature ends. I don't see the purpose of the motion.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The Deputy Premier indicated that he wants to speak. No? Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Chairman, I can only confirm what the Member said. The work is already under way for some of the planning and the functional review of the facilities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this motion is just speaking to the commitment the government is going to make on this. They have stated it in the five-year capital plan. As for other hospitals, this was an agreement made by the federal and territorial government when the territorial government took over the federal facilities in Inuvik and Iqaluit. It was already set up and done before by previous Ministers. It is just carrying forward and finding out that there was some money that was initially put forward that wasn't put aside in the revenue or in a special fund. That is why you are getting the motion to come forward; a recommitment by this Assembly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

--- Carried

--- Applause

Contributions, Inuvik, total region -- don't forget that the amount remains the same as before -- \$1.983 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, Baffin, total region, \$2.639 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, Keewatin, total region, \$194,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total contributions, \$6.361 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Total activity is \$13.631 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Detail of grants and contributions, page 11-18, contributions, \$133.851 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, \$133.851 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Health and hospital boards, information item, 11-21. Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, \$5.892 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to French-language services, \$292,000, are there any funds in the budget for aboriginal languages of a similar magnitude?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

No, Mr. Chairman, not to my knowledge. Only for French.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Why is that? We have an aboriginal population which makes up the majority in the Northwest Territories. Yet, when it come to languages, how come the French, which is a minority group, have funds? We have many people who are illiterate who still depend on aboriginal languages, especially the concerns raised in this House with translating services, people going on medevacs and not knowing where they are and what they are doing, and needing someone there to assist them in their language. That should be a priority item.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is for funding we received from the federal government. It is the leftover portion of the languages agreement. We still provide funding internally for interpreting services, whether it is at the local level, at the health centre or at a regional centre through health boards or hospitals. We also utilize the language services of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. In other words, this is conditional funding. Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it essential that we fund a language that isn't used in the Northwest Territories? Aboriginal languages are needed in a lot of the aboriginal communities and regions. Is there any possible way of reallocating these funds to the other language program with regard to the other six aboriginal languages, based on percentages and breakdowns?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that this funding is specific for the translation of materials. Because of that fact, if we were to try to pass it on, it might not be available to us as a department, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Good point. If we are translating things into French, which is a minority group, why don't we translate information on health into aboriginal languages to be used in aboriginal communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier, it is the portion left of the federal funding that was provided to the Government of the Northwest Territories for French-language services. As you know, they took a large portion of the aboriginal languages funding out of our funding and that goes to Education, Culture and Employment. I have a breakdown of activities that this \$292,000 funds. Mr. Chairman, it is spread out to different hospital and health boards throughout the Northwest Territories for providing French-language services specifically. As I indicated earlier, there are other aboriginal languages and interpreters provided through other funding sources within the department and through contributions to the different boards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, \$5.892 million. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a question to the Minister of Health concerning the medical travel. You just slipped by it before I had a chance to get to it. I was trying to get your attention.

My question on the medical travel is what types of checks and balances has the Minister directed the department to put in place to try to tighten up some of the abuses of medical travel that we have seen and are continuing to see.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we agree that the honourable Member for Iqaluit will ask the question pertaining to medical travel? Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as you know, we have given the responsibility for authorizing the medical travel to the health and hospital boards. We

have also given them, as of April 1st, the monetary budget to pay for the medical travel. By doing that, we think they know the clients a lot better and individuals who may be more prone to abuse the system than someone here in Yellowknife, as has been done in the past. So we are hoping that that will go a long way towards eliminating some of the abuse of medical travel, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, do the medical travel expenses include the cost of the boarding homes, when people stay in homes?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in some instances, it is included as a part of medical travel. In others where there are boarding facilities, it is outside of the medical travel component. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Merci. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

I have one question on that. I am not sure of the terminology used for it. There were communities

hooked up by video to medical doctors. How many communities would that be in and would that be a way to help decrease the amount of medical travel?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is telemedicine. It is one of the initiatives the department is working on, along with Education, Culture and Employment and the Financial Management Board Secretariat, to try to reduce some of the travel costs within the departments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On page 11-21, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, total department, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

This agreement between Canada and the GNWT with regard to French languages, providing information documentation and also translation services in hospitals and health centres. When does that agreement run out?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Merci. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is a year-by-year agreement. It runs out March 31, 1997. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Is there anything this department is trying to do with regard to allocating more funds for aboriginal languages versus French? If you look at the previous year,

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1995-96, they have \$339,000. This year, they had \$292,000 but you don't have anything there with regard to aboriginal languages. What is your

department doing trying to access funds for aboriginal languages versus French languages?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier to the honourable Member, we have the capacity for interpreting services within the existing language bureau and Education, Culture and Employment which we use extensively. We have it within the boards, the contributions that are given out across the Territories, and we have it within the department. So those are the sources of interpreting and translating that we use for our materials, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the percentage breakdown of contributions? Is it 100 per cent contributed by the federal government or is there a costsharing arrangement between yourselves and the federal government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I don't know the specifics of the cost sharing. This is the portion that is allocated to this department from the holders of the French-languages cooperation agreement with the federal government. I am not sure if it lies within the Premier's office or the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. This is just our allocation. You will see it in every department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Can someone from the Cabinet or Premier's office answer that question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Finance Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Just for clarification purposes, could Mr. Krutko once again repeat the question? I believe that Mr. Dent may be able to answer his question for him.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

The question is what is the percentage breakdown with regard to French-language services for \$292,000. What is the GNWT's portion of that? Is it a 75/25 split, 50/50, or are there resources from the Government of the Northwest Territories to that program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I'm informed that in order to follow procedure, the honourable Minister at the witness table is answering the questions, but he can refer the questions to another Minister. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. By all means, please refer this question to the Honourable Mr. Dent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe all of the funding for French language programs comes from the federal government in the cooperation agreement for French and aboriginal languages. Of the \$18 million, which covers the three-year program, there's \$15.5 million for aboriginal languages and \$2.5 million for French.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 11-21. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Eastern Arctic, I'm not aware of the French language being used. If I can quote Mr. Ernerk: "Why do they supply

us with money for French languages, which is of no use to us in the Eastern Arctic?" Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. French and English are the official languages of our country. In order to access the French language funding, and in order to access funding for other aboriginal languages in the Territories, there's a condition that French must be provided for. Mr. Minister, perhaps you can elaborate.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would agree with that. There's a significant French component in Iqaluit and the Baffin that may require some French services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 11-21, total department. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under building healthy communities, there's \$5 million. Part of that money is for solvent abuse prevention. What is that money being used for? There's only one facility in the Northwest Territories which deals with solvent abuse and there seems to be no money for it. Yet, there's \$5 million in this area and part of that money seems to be targeted for solvent abuse prevention. What is this money currently being used for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the money that was dedicated by Health Canada specifically for aboriginal groups. It's been channelled through us for expediency to free up some of the reporting and application guidelines. We have approached some of the groups to see whether or not they'd be interested in buying into or supporting the solvent abuse prevention program and other programs of that nature. The money is allocated regionally and administered by regional wellness committees throughout each region. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have we had any response from these organizations; favourable or not? If we have, what has been their response.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

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HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are some preliminary indications that some of the communities may be willing to provide some funding. It wouldn't be core funding per se; it would be on a per diem, usage basis, based on how many of their representatives would go to these programs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister indicated "some communities," does this mean the money goes to individual communities? How many communities have indicated a willingness to do this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some instances, the communities have the funds and others the funding is held at a regional level. It depends on which aboriginal group and how they decide to disburse their funding. We don't have the specifics or details regarding which community has what, or which region has what. That information is not available at this time but I would be willing to provide it to the Members. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister said that some communities had indicated they would be willing to pay a per diem. Are there a lot of

communities who are willing to do this, or only a few? Can we get some indication regarding the numbers he's speaking of?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I said this was a preliminary discussion and some communities had said they'd be willing to look at it. At this time we don't have anything concrete. An initial discussion has taken place. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is with regard to all types of grants and contributions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree to go back to grants and contributions as it relates to the question asked by honourable Mr. Steen? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is with regard to grants. Has the government a policy which allows people who receive these grants to make a profit? I'm referring specifically to what I've read with regard to the privatization of the Trail Cross Centre. I assume these people would be receiving grants. I also presume the unit which was being used by the Gwich'in received some form

of grants. I wonder if these types of businesses are allowed to make a profit off of the grants that they receive.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, generally speaking, with respect to grants and contributions, they are not-for-profit organizations. There wouldn't be a profit component to it per se, as far as what the honourable Member is speaking about; as far as something like a Trail Cross where there would be a privatization initiative, that would be through a contract by the local hospital or health board. In which case, we would fund them and they would contract out that service. In that respect, if it was a privatized industry, of course there would be some profit factor involved in their pricing, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, am I to understand, then, that they are allowed to make a profit off of social services in some form?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if it was a private sector company, for some contracts, yes, there would be a profit factor in their pricing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On the grants and contributions, Mr. Steen. Then we have Jane. Mrs. Groenewegen. Sorry. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the Minister clarify for me, then, comparing the Gwich'in centre healing society facility to what the government has in Inuvik at the present time, would one versus the other be allowed to show a profit?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, both Delta House and the Tl'oondih Healing Camp are operated by non-profit societies so there wouldn't be a profit factor per se in the funding contributions provided to them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To grants and contributions. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. But you're suggesting that the Trail Cross facility would be allowed to show a profit if privatized?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it would depend on what the proponent that was awarded the contract was. If it was a non-profit society, you can call it what you will, we wouldn't say it was a profit but there would certainly be the possibility of return to them that they could use to offset some of the development costs, some of their overhead. If it was a private, for profit company, that

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would be one of the factors of their pricing, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Grants and contributions. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, I hope this is my last question. Could the Minister indicate to me whether this government has a policy that would forbid profit off of health and social services facilities, grants or operations of any kind? Do we have a policy in place that would forbid us to allow people to make a profit off of the problems of others?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we don't, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the same area, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This area that Mr. Steen has raised is one where there seems to be some controversy or misunderstanding. If Trail Cross is privatized, then it's operated by a private contractor an

what they are compensated for running that contract in that facility; people are calling it profit but it is, in fact, what they're being paid to do. When a government worker goes to work and collects their pay cheque every two weeks, that's their pay cheque, that's what they get paid for doing that; it's not a charitable organization where the government runs it. People get paid to run it. When it's a private contractor, the contractor gets paid, the staff get paid and they cover their overhead.

There are private contractors and then there are charitable, non-profit organizations. The hospital in Hay River was run by a charitable, non-profit organization on a contract basis but sometimes people get those all mixed in together. The Minister can clarify this, but I think that when a health or a social service facility is operated by a private contractor, it might be wrong to say profit. They may be remunerated for providing that service as a private individual as opposed to the government paying people in the public service to do the same thing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you agree?

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Generally, yes, because it would be no different than physicians having a contract or being paid a per them for seeing so many clients; there's a return for their time in there, as well, in that type of a situation; so it depends on how you look at the profit, the return or whatever you want to call it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On the grants and contributions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has just raised a perfect example of it where you have a salaried doctor who works for the government; they get paid to provide their services. Then you may also have

a fee-for-service doctor who runs their practice as a business. You could say that is for profit but it's just a different method of payroll. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe that Mr. Steen is well informed of what is a profit or non-profit organization. If you'll move back to 11.21. Thank you. Total department is \$5.892 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Back to summary. Program summary, health and social services, on page 11-9, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$234.727 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Capital, total capital, \$13.631 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total expenditures for this activity is \$248.358 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree that consideration of the Department of Health and Social Services is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the honourable Minister and the witnesses for appearing before the committee.

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. We will wait until the witnesses leave the table. There is a motion on the floor to report progress which is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is defeated.

--- Defeated

In line with the announcement made by the Speaker last week regarding the hour, I will recognize the clock at 6:00 p.m. We'll come back at 6:30 p.m. Thank you.

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--- DINNER RECESS

Department Of Finance

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I would like to call the committee back to order. We are considering the Department of Finance. Mr. Todd, do you have any opening remarks?

Minister's Introductory Remarks

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the 1996-97 budget for the Department of Finance.

For 1996-97, the department is requesting an expenditure budget of \$10.171 million and a revenue budget of \$984,701. The department has no capital funding.

Expenditure Budget

Salaries and wages make up 25 per cent of the budget of the Department of Finance. Together, the expenditures for salaries, wages and associated other O and M are 5.9 per cent lower than they were in 1995-96.

Three areas of uncontrollable other O and M expenditures, all within the treasury division, make up over 65 per cent of total departmental expenditures.

First, borrowing costs are estimated to be \$3.25 million based on the projected \$40 million operating deficit in 1996-97. In previous years, these costs were authorized through supplementary appropriations, which means that the full 1996-97 borrowing cost of \$3.25 million is an increase over the 1995-96 main estimates.

Third, the budget includes the interest costs of \$1.313 million for Northwest Territories Power Corporation bonds. Each year, this cost is reduced as the outstanding debt decreases. The 1996-97 interest cost is \$588,000 less than in 1995-96.

Revenue Budget

The revenue budgeted in the Department of Finance represents 84.3 per cent of total government revenues. The largest component of this revenue is the grant from Canada which is forecast to decrease by \$66.6 million in 1996-97. The majority of this decrease results from the five per cent cut to the gross expenditure base imposed by the federal government.

An increase in revenues as a result of the 10 per cent increase to the education tax rate that applies to tax-based municipalities and the 10 per cent increase to the property and education tax rates that apply to the general taxation

area. This is only the third increase to the property and education tax since it was implemented in 1967. The annual increase for an average single family home will be less than \$30 per year.

1996-97 Outlook

The fiscal year 1996-97 will offer a number of significant challenges to the Department of Finance.

The department will be aggressively examining all tax and investment policy options to determine the best manner to encourage investment and business growth in the Northwest Territories.

Outstanding taxes and penalties will need to be pursued, to ensure that all sectors are supporting the government.

The department will provide statistics and analysis in support of formula funding negotiations and for government initiatives such as division of the Northwest Territories and community empowerment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Barnabas.

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

Standing Committee On Infrastructure Comments

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my pleasure to present the comments of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure regarding the Department of Finance.

One of the 24 options was a proposal to consolidate the Department of Finance and the Financial Management Board Secretariat. The standing committee discussed this proposal with the Minister over the course of the business plan review process.

At first Members felt that the proposal had merit, however, following discussions with the members of the Auditor General's staff, committee Members now feel that the Department of Finance and the Financial Management Board Secretariat should remain separate. The auditors expressed some important concerns about merging the agency primarily responsible for revenue, the Department of Finance. With the agency primarily responsible for the budget and expenditure coordination, the FMBS, we understand that the Minister and his staff are examining options for this proposal. The standing committee looks forward to reviewing those options with this Minister later this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. That concludes the comments from the appropriate committee. Before we get into general comments I would like to ask the honourable Minister if he wishes to bring in any witnesses. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

If I may, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please escort the witnesses. Thank you. Mr. Minister, for the record can you please introduce your witnesses.

HON. JOHN TODD:

On my immediate right is Margaret Melhorn and on my left is Mr. Tony Dawson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments? Mr. Picco.

General Comments

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Chairman, in the Infrastructure committee we talked about the amalgamation of Finance and FMBS. Could the Minister provide us with an update on what's happening regarding that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the present time it's on hold based upon further review. That's where it sits.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

That was a nice short answer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Are there any further general comments? Detail. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Line By Line

Directorate

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Section 4, page 8, directorate, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$596,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Treasury

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Treasury, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$8.301 million. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The treasury area includes taxes. I'd like to know when your department has worked on increasing education taxes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I tried to answer that question in a return to oral question last week. We did the taxation issue earlier in the year. It was in the fall of 1995.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any other possible increase in any of the taxes coming up?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

When I addressed the return to oral question, I indicated to my colleagues that perhaps this is an area I should have discussed with the committees and had inadvertently not done so, and apologized accordingly. If there are any further taxation initiatives they would be discussed with committee. I don't anticipate any at this time. As a matter of fact, as I said in the Budget Address earlier this month, we are trying to work towards a more tax incentive approach to replacing the dollars that are currently shrinking from our base. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Treasury, total operations and maintenance, \$8.301 million. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

I have a question with regard to collections, taxes and other revenues which might be owed to the department. We've written off almost \$400,000 to bad debts with regard to the collection of government revenues. Have you looked at going after these debts and making sure we retrieve them without writing them off?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

We haven't written any bad debts -- if that is how you want to put it -- off at this time. As I said in my opening comments, it is our intent to be a little more aggressive in pursuing some who are a little lax in the payments and some of the departments seem to be a little more aggressive and try to increase our revenues by being more aggressive in collections. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does that answer your question, Mr. Krutko? Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of interest, in part of your opening remarks, you refer to the interest cost of the Power Corporation bonds. Is that not balanced off by the amount of money they give back to the government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister..

HON. JOHN TODD:

I will ask Mr. Dawson to answer that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Dawson.

MR. DAWSON:

Mr. Chairman if I understand the question related to the Power Corporation debentures, there is revenue received from the Power Corporation in the form of interest revenue on a note owing to the government that

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exactly matches what is paid by the government on this debenture.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Treasury, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that amount you were speaking of also brings into line this \$588,000 in interest on those bonds?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

No, that is a decrease based on the previous year of 1995-96. That is what we are trying to demonstrate here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Okay. Treasury, total operations and maintenance, \$8.301 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Fiscal Policy

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Fiscal policy, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$718,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Bureau Of Statistics

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bureau of Statistics, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$556,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 4-12, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, total department, \$1,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

That concludes the detailed review of this department. Does the committee agree that we defer the consideration of the program summary until the consideration of Bill 10, Budget Measures Implementation Act, 1996-97, has been concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. That defers the department for the time being. Thank you, Mr. Minister and witnesses. Mr. Minister, was that too easy on you?

HON. JOHN TODD:

That would be a rare treat, Mr. Chairman, if Members were easy on me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

We will continue with the Department of Justice, Mr. Chairman.

MR. STEEN:

I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

There is a motion to report progress. The motion isn't debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is defeated.

--- Defeated

So we are going to continue with the Department of Justice. I am informed that it will take five minutes to get all of the reports for the business. So we will take a five-minute break.

--- SHORT RECESS

Department Of Justice

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I would like to call the committee to order. We are on the Department of Justice. I will invite the Honourable Kelvin Ng to give his opening comments.

Minister's Introductory Remarks

Major Challenges

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Approximately 90 per cent of the budget for the Department of Justice is assigned to deal with individuals going through the justice system. Major budget amounts are allocated to policing, legal aid, courts and corrections.

It is very difficult to control costs in these areas, particularly in the short term. This difficulty stems from a number of factors:

The Northwest Territories has the highest rate of violent crime in Canada. In fact, the rate of violent crime is six times the national average.

The population in the NWT is growing rapidly in the 16 to 25-year age group and this is the group most likely to commit crimes.

The justice system is required to deal with individuals who commit crimes and the way that we currently do this is very costly.

The goal of this budget is to place resources in areas with the most potential to address these very serious social problems. We are striving for a justice system that is more reflective of northern realities and the needs of our northern people. It will not be an easy task to reallocate funds and

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resources in order to reduce the levels and seriousness of crime in the NWT, particularly when we are committed to a course of fiscal restraint. However, I believe that it is absolutely essential that this be done and this is the approach that is taken in the budget.

Program Areas

Community Justice

Planning for community justice has begun and we will have a report prepared by June 1996. This planning is being done in conjunction with two other initiatives of the social envelope. An interdepartmental working group led by the Department of Health and Social Services is working on a framework and plan for community wellness. Another interdepartmental working group led by the Department of Justice is working on a plan for improved methods of supervising inmates in the community.

We feel that community-based justice initiatives are critical to the long-term health and well-being of our residents and our communities. These initiatives have the best potential for reflecting the aboriginal restorative approach and they are in harmony with our community wellness and empowerment initiatives.

Policing

Policing makes up close to 40 per cent of the department's total budget. Therefore, this is an area where expenditure reductions could potentially be made in order to meet targets. At the same time, however, there are continual requests to expand policing services particularly in the smaller communities. In addition, because of the rising number of violent crimes being committed, the RCMP are very concerned about the health and safety of their members.

The main estimates that you have before you contain a reduction of less than one per cent of the RCMP's budget. It has been strongly recommended to the RCMP that this entire reduction be taken from "G" Division headquarters administration. As well, we have been working very closely with the RCMP, the federal Solicitor General and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, to explore innovative ways of increasing policing services and encouraging more community involvement.

In October 1995, the Government of the Northwest Territories entered into a First Nations policing agreement with the Solicitor General of Canada. Policing arrangements under the agreement are worked out between the community, the territorial and federal governments. The specifics of the agreement vary from place to place, depending on the interests and concerns of each community. However, the purpose of such arrangements is to allow for the community to be policed by aboriginal members and to ensure accountability to the community for policing services.

In 1995-96, six aboriginal officers were funded under this program. There have been pilot projects in Fort Good Hope and Coral Harbour for the past two years that involve a number of participants from each community serving as community constables. Although the final assessment of these projects has not been completed, indications are that the program has been very successful. We are looking at ways to expand the program into other communities.

Corrections

Our correctional facilities across the Territories are suffering from serious overcrowding. The expansion and maintenance of these facilities has not kept pace with the growing numbers of offenders being put in jail. With the increased pressure to hold offenders, fewer resources have been available to offer treatment and rehabilitation programs.

In this budget, money has been set aside to work with communities to establish programs so that wherever possible, offenders can be placed on community supervision. In order to maintain the target set for future years, the department has been forced to consider the possibility of closing one correctional facility. This is not a desirable means of meeting our budget target and the matter remains under review. I have asked the department to take another look at where further reductions can be accomplished. With limited discretionary funding available to the department and such a large portion of the budget being allocated to policing services, it is possible that in order to keep all correctional facilities operational, reductions would need to be made in the policing budget.

Capital - Corrections

Historically, the capital budget for the Department of Justice has been small and has been used primarily for the acquisition of equipment and for minor renovations to correctional facilities. The capital budget has not been sufficient to provide for major upgrades to the facilities that are necessary from time to time.

In the fiscal year 1996-97, the capital budget is being increased to allow for much needed major renovations to the Baffin Correctional Centre. The Baffin Correctional Centre was built in 1985, as a minimum secure facility. With increases in incarceration over the years and the increased pressure on all of our facilities, more and more violent offenders are being held in this facility. The renovation project contained in this budget will not expand the capacity of the building to hold more inmates, but will make it more suitable to hold inmates who pose a greater risk.

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Projects at other facilities have been carried over into the 1996-97 fiscal year due to unanticipated delays in getting started. The Department of Justice has also identified a small amount for equipment and minor projects required in the other correctional facilities.

Capital - Community Corrections Facilities

In June 1995, supplementary funding was approved by the Legislative Assembly for the construction of community correctional centres. Operations and maintenance funding to support these facilities has not been identified. As well, the Standing Committee on Social Programs questioned the rationalization for such facilities and recommended that the department develop a plan for community justice that addresses the role of community correctional centres. In order to allow adequate time to address these issues, the capital funding approved in 1995-96 has been carried over into 1996-97. It is expected that a June 1996 report on community justice will contain recommendations about whether these projects, as presently described in the capital plan, should go ahead.

Legal Services Board

The growth in demand for legal aid services goes hand in hand with the pressures placed on the rest of the justice system. The Legal Services Board has taken significant steps over the last couple of years to reduce and control costs. It is anticipated that even greater restrictions will be imposed in 1996-97 to live within the allocated budget. These include:

- reducing the budgets provided to the regional clinics;
- reducing the board and office administration budgets;
- ceasing to provide funding to the Arctic Public Legal Education and Information Society, and instead administering legal education through the regional legal services clinics;
- reviewing the financial eligibility criteria and placing further restrictions on those who are financially eligible to receive legal aid services;
- implementing rollbacks in the fees paid to the private Bar through amendments to the tariff; and,
- ceasing to provide legal aid for fees in cases of claims for injuries, division of property and wrongful dismissal. In these cases, there will be coverage of disbursements only. These last two measures require an amendment to the Legal Services Act which is being provided for in the Budget Measures Implementation Act.

The full effect of these reduction measures will not be felt until 1997-98. For example, the new fees for lawyers will apply to applications approved after the amended regulations are implemented. Cases presently in progress will be covered by the rates in effect now.

The Legal Services Board continues to place emphasis on a regional model of delivering services, whereby staff lawyers serve as the executive director for regional legal services clinics. Recently, a decision was made by the Legal Services Board to amalgamate the legal services provided in the Beaufort and Delta regions under one board located in Inuvik. It is anticipated that this will be more efficient considering the courts are located in Inuvik and it is a major regional centre.

The executive director position of the Mackenzie Courtworkers' Association is now staffed with a lawyer. This was done so that the association could function as a regulation legal aid clinic similar to the ones in the other regions.

Courts

The courts operating budget has also been reduced. This resulted in one employee being laid off. The remainder of the reductions are expected to be covered off through efficiencies implemented throughout the court services division.

The deputy minister of Justice is working very closely with the judiciary to explore ways to reduce costs and improve the delivery of court services through a recently established Court Planning Committee.

Coroners

Funding for the coroners' program has not kept pace over the years with the number of deaths deemed to require autopsies and inquiries. This program relies heavily on volunteers in communities who act as the local coroner. Regular training is therefore an essential part of the mandate of the chief coroner's office. Funding has been added to this program to cover growth and training.

Administration

Consistent with the overall government priority to streamline administration, the headquarters administration budget of the Department of Justice has been reduced. This includes eliminating one ADM position in the department. The position has been vacant since last November and will not be restaffed.

As well, a secretary in the constitutional law division has been laid off.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Act

Under the Budget Measures Implementation Act, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act is to be repealed. No money has been budgeted to cover any applications received during this fiscal year. Any obligations under this act in this fiscal year will have to be covered from other sources.

Revenues

Personal Property Security Act

As Members know, the Personal Property Security Act has been passed and the department has been developing a userfriendly automated system to allow this program to be administered electronically. The computer technology will be state of the art, and this service is being welcomed by the

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business community in the NWT. This program will pay for itself and actually add resources to the government. In the main estimates, revenues are estimated at \$100,000 in 1996-97.

Summary

Mr. Chairman, this budget places great emphasis on community development and community involvement in the justice system. Over time, we expect that this investment will result in fewer crimes being committed and fewer individuals being processed through the criminal justice system.

That concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. I will now ask the honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Roland, to give the Social Programs committee report on Justice.

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

Standing Committee On Social Programs Comments

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present the report of the Standing Committee on Social Programs on our review of the Department of Justice.

Standing committee Members feel there is a significant difference between community wellness and community corrections approaches. Building more facilities, whether they are in large centres or in each community, is not consistent with addressing the root of the problem. It is time for a different approach - one which will allow the communities to identify other options which will have more impact on the offenders and be more effective in reducing crime.

The Standing Committee would like the department to provide a plan for tying community justice into the overall community wellness strategy. This plan should include concrete implementation options and details of how the department will identify the funding. It should also address the failure of the current system of corrections and how community justice and community corrections will change this. If the Minister believes the community correctional facilities are a necessary part of community justice, they should be specifically addressed in the plan. The Standing Committee would like this plan no later than June 1, 1996, since this is clearly a component of an overall community wellness strategy.

In the areas of community corrections, the department is encouraged to become more aggressive about what can happen in each community and to work with the other departments in the social envelope on blending resources to meet community needs.

The standing committee recognizes that there are statutory obligations to provide legal aid. However, there are opportunities to do business in a different way. As a way of supporting the legal aid system and reducing the costs, the standing committee recommends that the Minister explore an increased role for northern court workers and legal aid lawyers in assisting more of their clients. It may also be appropriate to consider giving legal aid clients the choice of which lawyer to use.

The standing committee recommends that the department attempt to have firearms registration and safety courses done at the community level as much as possible; for example, through the band or hamlet office. This would minimize the inconvenience to gun owners.

The standing committee supports maintaining a strong coroners' program. The coroners' program is

consistent with community wellness and individuals contributing to the community in which they live.

During the business plan review process, there was considerable discussion about the possibility to close a correctional facility in order to meet the budget targets. The standing committee was very concerned about closing a facility. The Minister has committed to working closely with the standing committee to identify alternate ways to meet the department's budget.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Social Programs on the department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland.. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This particular department is very important to my region and, having to consider it at the late hour, I think we may be rushing through it. Therefore, I would like to move that we report progress. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in

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favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I will now report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. We are on item 20, report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Steen.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 11, Committee Report 2-13(3) and Committee Report 4-13(3) and

would like to report progress with two motions being adopted and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Secunder to the motion? Mr. Picco. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

--- Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, there is a meeting of the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development, and of the Standing Committee on Social Programs; at 10:30 a.m., a meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, at 11:30 a.m., a meeting of the ordinary Members; and, at 12:00 noon, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, May 22, 1996:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions

11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motion

15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 15, Loan Authorization Act, 1996-97

- Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act

- Bill 17, Business Corporations Act

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. 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

- Tabled Document 1-13(3), Report of the Commission on MLA Compensation

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 22, 1996, at 1:30 p.m.

--- ADJOURNMENT