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The Honourable Samuel Gargan, Speaker

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1996

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

--Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Good afternoon. Mr. Morin. Sorry. I was too anxious. I would like to welcome back the Members for the continuation of the Third Session. I will note that we all have been busy over the summer with committee work and also constituency visits. I hope that you were able to spend some time with your families and your friends. Now for the business of the House before us. I would like to inform the House that I have received the following messages from Her Honour, The Commissioner of the Northwest Territories dated September 24, 1996.

Dear MR. SPEAKER:

I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, the passage of Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1996-97 during the Third Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly.

signed, Yours truly, Helen Maksagak, Commissioner.

Orders of the day, Ministers' statement.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 81-13(3): Condolences to the Family of Robert Bourassa

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an emergency statement. Mr. Speaker I would like to offer condolences on behalf of the Northwest Territories to family, friends and colleagues of the former Premier of Quebec, Robert Bourassa. As Members know, Mr.

Bourassa passed away earlier today after a long battle with cancer. This is a sad day for all Canadians as we have lost a major figure in the Canadian political history. While he served the people of Quebec in his capacity as Premier. He also served all of Canada with his passion and beliefs regarding the Canadian unity and constitutional issues. He will be missed by not only the people who knew and worked with him but by all Canadians who benefited from his contribution of keeping Canada one nation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you Mr. Morin. I will ask the Clerk to send a message of condolences to the family of Mr. Bourassa. Ministers' statement, Mr. Morin.

Minister's Statement 82-13(3): Reflection on Achievements of Government and Assembly to Date

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As this is not the beginning of a new session -- and is rather a resumption of the Third Session of the 13th Assembly -- instead of outlining what we have ahead for this sitting, I would like to use this occasion to look back on what we, as a government and an assembly, have achieved to date.

We are at an important milestone for this government -- indeed, in some ways, it is the halfway point. A point where we are well on the road to fulfilling our goals and vision for the

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North, but also embarking on creating new roads and new beginnings.

With almost one year behind us, we really only have little more than a year to implement our program. As Members know, the final year of this Assembly will be largely devoted to ensuring a smooth transition to division.

With that perspective, we must ask ourselves, what do we want to leave as a legacy to the governments that will follow us?

What kind of difference do we want to make in the lives of the people of the North, and for future generations of Northerners?

When the 13th Assembly took office almost one year ago, it did so faced with an extremely demanding and difficult financial and political agenda.

To meet these challenges, we developed and agreed to the following vision:

"The 13th Assembly's vision for the future is for a Northwest Territories with a secure financial future that will be more established as a viable political and economic unit of Canada; and that a healthier, better educated and more self-reliant people is able to enjoy good quality of life, and has access to more of the jobs they want and need."

To help fulfil this vision, we set out 10 priorities.

Of those priorities, the one that has received the most attention has been our actions and efforts to secure our financial future.

It is not easy to implement programs of restraint and reduction knowing, without a doubt, it will affect the lives of the people we represent.

But these are not easy times. Not for our government, or any other government in this country.

We need to continue to ask if we have the right balance. But I believe we are doing the right thing at the right time and for the right reasons ... to best serve the people of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few moments to recap what we, the members of this legislative assembly, have accomplished in the past 321 days. And in doing so, provide an update on how we are working to fulfil our priorities.

First, Mr. Speaker, I would like to address our pledge to secure our financial future.

As I have already stated, our main priority at this time last year, and today, continues to be balancing the budget and returning this government to a position of fiscal health. Under the direction of the Minister of Finance we have made substantive gains towards this goal. Working together in this House, we have implemented a two-year program that will fundamentally restructure the way we do government in the Northwest Territories.

As Members of this House are acutely aware, this type of fundamental structural change requires that difficult choices be made. Choices that are difficult but necessary.

Mr. Speaker, we have attempted to make these choices in a fair and equitable manner -- in a manner that treats all communities and regions as fairly as possible. That is the standard we committed to work to, and we, as a group should ... indeed must ... discuss whether we are meeting that standard. Overall, I am pleased to announce that we are on the way to accomplishing our goals and meeting our overall budget targets of a \$43 million deficit for the current fiscal year. It is a good beginning, but bear in mind, to complete our program and bring in a balanced budget for 1997-98, more tough decisions and choices about how we will spend our limited resources are required.

To secure our financial future, we must stay the course we have set and continue to do -- not what is popular -- but what is best. We need to look beyond today and make decisions that build the best foundation for the North beyond 1999.

Mr. Speaker, this government has pledged to improve social conditions, to empower

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communities, and to work towards community wellness.

Earlier this year, we transferred the responsibility for community empowerment from the Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, because that department has people at the community level throughout the territories who are in the position to get the job done. And, I am pleased to report, they have begun to do just that. Under the direction of the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mani Thompson, the government has prepared a report on community empowerment that will guide us as we move ahead with this initiative.

As well, the government has committed to fast-tracking legislation and changes to policy that will allow for block funding of communities so they can set their own spending and their own program and service priorities.

In addressing the Assembly earlier this year, I noted that the community wellness initiative is closely linked with income reform and community empowerment. That is why Minister of Health and Social Services Kelvin Ng is leading a restructuring of government agencies to create a single, cost-effective agency to

serve as a community wellness centre in each community.

With decisions in the hands of people at the community level, funds can be allocated to the most needed social and health services in a particular community. Healthy people and health communities will contribute to a strong economy, and a stable future for the North. Therefore, when it comes to community health and community empowerment we will continue to invest whatever we can afford to ensuring we are doing all we can.

Mr. Speaker, this government has pledged to improve economic conditions.

Aside from the stability a balanced budget will bring to the territory, we have also been working in other areas to secure a stronger economic future for our people.

We, as a government, have taken a public stand on the BHP Diamond Project to ensure northerners will have the chance to gain employment and contracting opportunities from this venture. We have made our point clear, and we will not bend if it means that Northerners will not be allowed to reap the true benefits of economic development in the North. I believe BHP wants to be partners with us in this process -- they want to get on with the job ... and so do we.

I understand that good progress is being made in discussion between aboriginal groups, BHP, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and our government this week. As these discussions continue, I believe we will be able to reach an agreement that meets the needs of northern people. It is an important precedent ... a precedent that will establish the ground rules for other companies investing or moving to the North.

It is also important, Mr. Speaker, to point out that this issue goes beyond the BHP Diamonds Project. It is an issue of control of northern resources.

Until such time as this responsibility is devolved from the federal government to the people of the Northwest Territories, we are always going to be placed in a position of trying to ensure that the federal government protects our interests in non-renewable resource projects. This government will remain vigilant in ensuring that this occurs.

Mr. Speaker, this government has pledged to develop a more effective and efficient government structure.

When this government came to power just under a year ago, we made a promise that we would restructure and reorganize government so we would not be spending as much on administrative

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costs.

We have made many moves toward a leaner and more effective government structure.

We have consolidated the departments of Economic Development and Tourism, Renewable Resources and Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources into one department to not only save money, but also, under the guidance of Minister Stephen Kakfwi, to create one-stop shopping for resource-related development and economic activity.

An another step in fulfilling this priority, the government will be proceeding to redistribute the responsibilities of the Department of Safety and Public Services by December 1996, creating over one million dollars in savings in support of deficit elimination priorities.

It should be emphasized, however, that program transfers or restructuring associated with this initiative will be achieved with the consultation and input of all honourable members, and with absolutely no reduction, no reduction to safety or service levels in Northern communities.

Mr. Speaker, this government is also reviewing the privatization of a number of government agencies and departments, including the petroleum product production division, property management, and computer systems and services.

Overall, we have continued to look at every aspect of government operations to ensure they are efficient and effective, and to set a strong example for the governments that follow.

Mr. Speaker, this government has pledged to take action on aboriginal issues.

Our first step to fulfil this priority was to re-focus Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs within the Executive department to make sure this area of importance has broader access and support from cabinet.

As we have identified this as a priority of this government, and the legislative assembly, we must ensure aboriginal affairs and concerns are front and centre in all that we do -- from the creation of a new constitution for the western territory, to moving the agenda forward on self-government.

Mr. Speaker, a final priority I would like to address today is our pledge to be heard at the national level.

This summer, I had the opportunity to participate in the 17th Annual Premier's Conference in Jasper.

Among the issues brought to the table were federal reform, economic growth, social policy reform and renewal, and the topic of who has control over what.

As an active participant in these discussion, we were able to make our position on these issues clear. At the same time, we were able to develop alliances with the Yukon and the provinces to help strengthen our voice at the national level.

I can say to you with confidence that we are being heard like never before ... and I intend to make sure that it stays that way.

Mr. Speaker, as we have all been working to complete the tasks and priorities at hand, and within a short timeframe, the government recognizes we have not done as well as we could have keeping people informed -- both within this house and with the people in our communities.

I am pleased to report, members will soon see a strategy for this government that will involve all members in opening the channels of communication with our constituents and other key stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, that is a summary of the challenges that we have faced over the past year, and the program we have put in place to meet those challenges.

Where do we go from here?

As I stated earlier, even though we have only 10 months, even though we are only 10 months into our mandate, time is short to implement our program. We must consider what we can realistically accomplish over the remaining 30 months of our term. I welcome that debate.

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The first priority remains the necessity of putting our financial house in order. We are six months into a

two-year program to balance the budget of this government. I have told you we are on track to meet our budget targets for the current year. However, many tough decisions will have to be made over the course of the next six months to bring in a balanced budget for 97 - 98.

If the Members of the House continue to work together, I am confident we will accomplish this goal.

Mr. Speaker, fiscal responsibility also means that we must move towards developing a healthier economy in the Northwest Territories.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations has prepared several reports proposing an investment strategy for the Northwest Territories.

This strategy, as well as strategies for job creation and the negotiation of a Northern Accord that will ensure northerners take control of northern resources, are essential elements of a vital and healthy economy.

Hand in hand with the necessity to deal with the financial situation is the work required leading up to a division of the Northwest Territories.

As we move closer to 1999, more and more of the time of this Assembly will be devoted to making decisions that will ensure a smooth transition to division into the two new territories. We must take the time to do things right. We are making vital decisions that affect the future prosperity -- both politically and economically -- of the North.

The Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, Jim Antoine, will be tabling a report from the Constitutional Working Group during this session that will put us well on the road to developing a constitution for the western Territory.

As well, the Minister of Finance has begun discussions with the Honourable Paul Martin on a process to negotiate funding for the two new territories. Mr. Todd will make sure Mr. Martin understands our unique circumstances as part of that important process.

This Assembly must also develop a process that will ensure a fair and equal division of the assets and liabilities for the two new territories. But that will only be a beginning.

We have an enormous task ahead of us in the division of the Northwest Territories. One that will demand our time in the months to come.

We are committed to ensuring that all members are involved in this process. To this end, the Division Planning Committee of Cabinet has recently appointed two ordinary members to participate fully in their discussions.

Mr. Speaker, time is short and we have many decisions to make.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress once again, that we have made a commitment to build a better future for the people of the North. The legacy of this Legislative Assembly must be to ensure that April 1, 1999 is a day of celebration for the people of both new territories.

Mr. Speaker, I was raised to believe that we can always accomplish more by working together. Our elders have shown us this is the best way to create a better world and a better life. I believe if we honour that lesson, and remember what the elders have taught us, we can fulfil our vision by working together.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you Mr. Premier. Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

Minister's Statement 83-13(3): Ministers Absent From the House

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HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise Members that Honourable Kelvin Ng. will be absent from the House today to attend a meeting of the Ministerial Council on Social Policy Reform and Renewal in Calgary. As well, the Honourable Charles Dent will also be absent from the House today to attend the Canadian Council of Ministers of Education, and the Canadian Education Association National Convention in Saint John's. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 84-13(3): Tabling the Draft Constitutional Package on October 16th as Opposed to October 2nd

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Mahsi Mr. Speaker. It has been my privilege over the last several months to serve along with the Aboriginal Summit representative, Mr. George Kurzewski, as co-chair of the Constitutional Working Group, developing the draft constitutional package for the new western Territory.

The Constitutional Working Group has been investing considerable time and energy into ensuring the document we present offers a positive and effective starting point for public consultation. Our original schedule and timeframe called for tabling a draft constitutional package today.

Presently, however, we are working to incorporate recommendations discussed by the working group as recently as last weekend, and now need adequate time for finalizing and printing the document.

We are close. We need to take the time to be sure to do this right. Mr. Speaker, we now plan to table a constitutional document in this House in Wednesday, October 16. Mahsi cho. Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministerial statement is now over. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Motion on Minister's Statement 7-13(3): Premier's Sessional Speech to Committee of the Whole

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 34.5, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for the High Arctic that the Minister's Statement 82-13(3) entitled Premier's Sessional Speech, be moved into committee of the whole for discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried.

---Carried.

Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement on More Open Communication of Strategies With The People Of The Northwest Territories

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back. Mr. Speaker, over the past several months this...

---Applause.

Thank you fans. Over the past several months, since the October election, the 13th Assembly has been preoccupied with the deficit and cut-backs, but many other important areas affecting the residents of the NWT should also be discussed and debated.

Mr. Speaker, in my community of Iqaluit, we are short approximately 70 housing units. Even though we are named the new capital of Nunavut, we still have a very high unemployment rate. Mr. Speaker, the citizens of the Northwest Territories want to see the 13th Assembly to begin to debate these issues have put forward solutions to grave and other concerns of residents.

Yes, the deficit is important. But our residents need to know that this Assembly is also working at improving other areas of our well-being.

The knock on this government is that we have discussed and made most decisions behind closed doors. Mr. Speaker, we have to

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demonstrate our openness to discussion, by having more debate in the House, and more public discussion. The Premier opened the 13th Assembly by saying that no other government of the NWT faced the challenges of the 13th Assembly, division, a looming deficit, and high unemployment. Mr. Morin was correct. The challenges are there. But by providing open government with open public debate within the framework of the Legislative Assembly, our constituents will at least see the government working to correct these problems. We have to rise above the rhetoric, and begin to develop strategies, and plans that will bring us to division, and place both Nunavut and the new western Territory on firmer ground.

Mr. Speaker, at all levels of government, there is leakage of what programs are going to be cut, downsized, or the departments amalgamated. By

being more open on these issues, public concern can be addressed before the usual doom and gloom stories, and worst case scenarios and half truths are circulated.

Mr. Speaker, when will the government table a job creation plan? When will we debate and give direction on our housing shortage? Over the next few days, I will be questioning the ministers responsible for these issues, and hopefully raise these concerns in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Members' statements, Mr. Enuaraq.

Member's Statement on the Impact of Cuts in Communications on Residents in Remote Communities

MR. ENUARAQ:

Mr. Speaker, the summer break is a wonderful time for all of us to return to our ridings, restore our strength from the land, and the lifestyle, and to get an earful from our constituents.

The people of my riding have always been great travellers and hard working, determined hunters and one of the most valuable items during their travels was the exchange of news and information -- about the land, the weather, and ice conditions, and most importantly, about the people.

Traditionally, we took care of ourselves, just as we did everything else ourselves. With the building of the communities and the creation of a new lifestyle, radio became the first new technology to fit easily into our lives, first with short-wave and later with local community radio transmitters. Access to news and information in our community and region as well as the other areas of the north, and the entire country has always come to us through the radio.

Our elders, the Innumariit, quickly learned to use local access radio to pass along the oral history and traditional knowledge of our people. Hunters still report on their recent trips, the new dangers or successful location of caribou at a particular spot. Inuktitut language radio programming has developed to a very high level by CBC North and Inuit Broadcasting Corporation. This is programming that wins awards around the world and sets standards for others to match.

Mr. Speaker, in a climate of constant cuts, there is the danger of becoming numb to the painful realities of our people. We cannot allow this to happen if we are to represent not just the interest of our people, but the needs of all people.

Earlier this month, the CBC announced more massive cuts to its entire system. Most of the cuts in the north will be felt in radio, which is still much larger than television in CBC North.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. ENUARAQ:

There will be staff cuts and they will lead to reduction in program quality and content, and just at a time when Inuktitut programming is becoming even more central to future development of our people in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I learned that the government has now decided it can no longer afford the \$110,000 a year to keep the local radio transmitters operating in the smaller

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communities. Both regional programming and local access broadcasting will be directly affected as old equipment fails and is not repaired. This government, Mr. Speaker, will be creating a double standard that existed 25 years ago, where the bigger communities can get more services, while the smaller communities, two of which I represent, get fewer and fewer services. People in the smaller communities will now be forced to listen to radio programming from south -- perhaps, rock from Vancouver, or (with all due respect to my colleague from Iqaluit) talk shows from St. John's.

Is this how we preserve our language, perhaps our history, our traditional knowledge?

This is a one-two to punch from large organization that our people have depended upon for 35 years -- and it amounts to the people in twenty-eight

communities then saying "Too bad, go listen to the south."

Mr. Speaker, the irony is even greater when we listen to the great support and enthusiasm we have all expressed for the new information highway initiatives our government has started. Over \$3 million will be spent to connect all our communities with high speed data networks -- yet we cannot afford \$110,000 to keep the smallest communities, those with the least resources, connected to their fellow citizens, their region and their country.

Returning from the land and my communities, the message is loud and clear -- do not cut initial and long valued services. To do so without support from the people is to leave us all open to criticism that we have become a government that knows the cost of everything and the value of nothing.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Members' statements, Mr. O'Brien.

Member's Statement on Impact of Cuts and Job Creation

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back. Mr. Speaker we are all acutely aware that this government is facing the most trying financial time in the history of the NWT, but are we on the right track in dealing with this very scary situation? For the past ten months this government has been hacking and cutting at the territorial budget in order to meet the target set by the self-imposed Deficit Elimination Act. Mr. Speaker, prior to the VTA and other benefit reductions, I requested that this House take a sober second look at the impact these cuts would have on the small off-road communities. Unfortunately little consideration was given, therefore, the cuts took place and the hardships began. Mr. Speaker, this government is now looking at another round of deep cuts to our budget, programs and services. I am not convinced that the smaller off-road communities, and to some extent, the major centres, if they can handle these cuts. Mr. Speaker, what will we really accomplish if by division in 1999 we have a balanced budget but have a quality of life that is similar to the Flintstones? I believe if we continue with these drastic cuts it will

be to our detriment and could put the Territories back some twenty-five years. To compound this issue, I will remind everyone of the fact that, very few, and in some cases, no jobs for northerners have been created. I seriously believe that the Premier and his Cabinet should pause and review its cost cutting agenda for the next year. This would also include putting a hold on most of the departmental restructuring as I am not convinced that the small financial savings are really worth the significant human cost.

Mr. Speaker, one does not require a brain surgeon to carry out these cuts. The real tests and the real challenge is to create jobs not cut them, and furthermore, if we do not move quickly to stimulate our fragile economy, through mining or other such initiatives, our economic mobility may just cease. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, the member for Kivalliviq is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement, do we have any nays. You have unanimous consent, conclude your statement.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in closing I would say that, while it may

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be vogue and appropriate for provinces like Ontario and Alberta to make such drastic cuts in their spending, we Mr. Speaker, are not Ontario, nor are we Alberta. We are the Northwest Territories where many communities have up to seventy percent unemployment, not twenty percent, which is the worst case scenario for a southern province.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to follow this trend of southern Canada. This may mean that we have to carry a larger and extended deficit. I believe we must concentrate now on creating jobs and kick starting our economy. This, in return, would assist us in putting our financial house back in order. Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult for the public to accept such drastic reductions when, to date, this government has provided little or no proof that this cost cutting agenda is showing measurable, constructive and feasible results. This information must be forthcoming before we proceed any further. Mr. Speaker, the reality is

that we may have to spend more to make more and also to get ourselves out of this financial sewer. Thank you, mutna, mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Members statement, Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement on the Community's Support For the Family of Jimmy Kanatsiaq

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to welcome everyone back to the Legislature. I hope you all had a good summer as we did. I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that during this summer we were told often about some sad pieces of news from my community. However, these items I considered seriously with a view for the future.

Last week one of my constituents Jimmy Kanatsiaq passed away following a hard battle with cancer. Jimmy had left his wife Hannah and six children. He was only 51 at his death. He had relatives however, in Hall Beach, like so many families in many of the regions they have relatives in a number of towns which are far apart and sometimes they cannot see each other for many years.

I was asked to assist Hannah and her family to return to Hall Beach. However, it was not possible to arrange any assistance through the government departments, although I did request assistance. But it was the people in my constituency in Arctic Bay and the people of Hall Beach and the people of Repulse Bay which is the town where Jimmy Kanatsiaq was born and raised. These people helped to solve the problem. They all worked together and contributed money until the airfare for the entire family was raised for them to go to Hall Beach. All of this was done in a week's time and the family has now been moved back to Hall Beach.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an example of the way Inuit have survived difficult times throughout our past by working together. I would like to thank all those people who have helped so much in such a short time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements, Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement on the Impact of Cuts and the Need to Re-evaluate Goals

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome all colleagues back to the Assembly, I hope you have had a good summer. I would like to get the niceties out first and hi to my wife and children back home. I might as well keep up the tradition.

Mr. Speaker, during the time back home in the community of Inuvik I had a chance to hear many of the people raise their concerns and to sit back on reflect on what we have done and taken part in. I agree with the Premier's statement that we need to discuss whether we are meeting the standard of fairness and equity. It is time that we, as an assembly, sat down and seriously considered what we are doing, are we getting the value of our dollar and all the things we said we would be doing. Are we accomplishing the

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goal that was put before us?

We were told we would save a certain amount of dollars here and there and we agreed. We started to see the fallout of that and it would be interesting to hear other members, if what was said in our committee meetings and how it was justified in the reductions if we indeed, achieved those or if we have affected others in a different way or made things worse for others. Mr. Speaker, I think it is seriously time that we looked at our goals and are they achievable. I say this, not to say it is time to turn around and stop and freeze our pattern, but instead to say, are there some adjustments we need to do to achieve our goal that we set out in balancing the budget?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Members' statements, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement on the Impact of Cuts and the Resulting Hardships in Communities

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the past year has been difficult. It has been difficult for the people in our constituencies who are coping with reductions to their schools, to their healthcare and to municipal services. It has been difficult for the staff who deliver the programs. Having to deal with new demands and increased workloads and changes to the way we do business, not to mention the layoffs.

It has been difficult for our non-profit organizations. In the past if an organization came up with a good idea for a program or service, the government was often able to help with funding. Now groups have to figure out how to manage with the resources they have or with less. It has been difficult for the small businesses in our communities. Small businesses are the heart and soul of our economy. As government cuts back there is a ripple effect throughout the community. People have less money to spend and less sense of security so they are more cautious with their spending, they sit on their wallets. Small businesses are hurt by this.

Mr. Speaker, it has also been difficult for the Members of this House. We have made decisions which we know will be hard on people. Unlike the south, most of us know everyone in our ridings. When we look at reductions we know who it will affect. When we agreed to tackle the deficit, we said we would ensure fairness and equity in the reductions. We agreed that everyone would have to take their share of the hardship and that all reductions would not be on the back of one group or one community. Clearly, disparities exist among major centres as a result of this year's budget and cuts. As we start in the next year's business plans, it is critical that these disparities be addressed if we are to move ahead.

Mr. Speaker, as we consider the budget for next year, we need to make sure that we are being fair and equitable to everyone. We also need to make sure we think through all the implications of each decision, not just what it does on the surface, but the ripple effect of that decision. We have one year under our belts, and I think we are all the wiser for it, and probably in a lot of cases sadder, but wiser.

Mr. Speaker, we know it will be increasingly difficult to stick to our plan. However, we need to remember the light at the end of the tunnel. If we can stay on course

for one more year, we will balance the budget. The toughest decisions in this area will be the hardest. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement On Achievements of Tree of Peace Friendship Centre

MR. OOTES:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends.) I would like to dedicate my first statement at the resumption of this session to a group of people who have been serving Northerners for more than 25 years. I am referring to the people both past and present who run the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre here in

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Yellowknife.

As many Members know, the good works of the Tree of Peace extend far beyond the limits of this city. It has helped establish friendship centres in many communities including Fort Smith, Fort Simpson and Rankin Inlet. The Tree of Peace has also helped establish program we now consider fundamental components of northern life.

Let me note a few highlights of from its long list of achievements. In 1971, the Centre launched one of the first, if not the first, community-based adult education programs. In 1970, the Tree of Peace initiated the kindergarten, the first parent-child development program controlled by Aboriginal people. Sadly, this government terminated this kindergarten in 1994. In 1976, the Centre launched the first drug and alcohol awareness program for Dene and Metis people in Yellowknife. With Ingamo Hall in Inuvik, the Tree of Peace helped initiate the native court workers of the Western Arctic. This is an impressive list, Mr. Speaker, and it only covers a fraction of the friendship centre's activities.

Last night attended the 25th Assembly and Annual General Meeting, along with Mr. Henry. Several resolutions were passed with respect to the need for ongoing support from this government. Later in the week, on the return of the Minister, Mr. Dent, I will ask some questions in regard to funding support.

I am going to stop here except to make one more point. The Tree of Peace programs are initiated by the Dene and Metis people of Yellowknife for all peoples. As such, the programs are based on traditional values which make them all the more important. In a community like ours, it is easy to be distracted by the light and noise of city living.

In closing, I would like to thank the Tree of Peace and Mr. Tom Eagle who is in the audience today, his staff, Mr. Fred Koe who was elected as senator last night and who is in the audience today, for the difference the Tree of Peace has made in my community, and I hope that the Tree of Peace will thrive for many years to come. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement On The Loss Of Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take a moment to welcome back my fellow Members to your capital city.

Mr. Speaker, I have stated both in this House and to my constituents that cuts this government makes must be done fairly. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to elaborate on this. I was very upset to hear of the cuts to the seniors' fuel subsidy program. Seniors who are not on income support will no longer be eligible for this subsidy. It is unfair that those who have sacrificed to pay for their homes now have to pay more by losing this subsidy. Seniors are telling me that the ones that had been responsible and have taken precautions to provide for their future are the ones getting hit.

This government has also targeted in the last round of cuts, those who own their own homes by eliminating \$1 million from the homeowners' property tax rebate program which meant a homeowner could claim back up to \$300 on their property taxes. The vast majority of this cut in programming was absorbed by three communities. It is those that have paid already who end up bearing the burden. This is not fair. Everyone has to take the responsibility to contribute whether they are at the top or at the bottom of the scale.

The message has to be delivered that everyone contributed to our debt so everyone has to pay. We are giving a message that if you pay your taxes and make provisions for your retirement, we will target you. So if you do not look after yourself, that is okay. This government will take care of you with no responsibility or obligation. Mr. Speaker, that is wrong.

Employee cuts in the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation regional office send the same wrong message. Eight jobs were eliminated in the North Slave regional office. No other regional offices are seeing these types of job cuts. The offices in Yellowknife, we are told, are more efficient so they get the job cuts. Mr.

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Speaker, this is wrong. We are penalizing them for being efficient. This is not fair. All regional offices have to also get the message. The message could be communicated by depleting some of their resources, but, instead, they are left relatively untouched.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife South is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Continue your statement.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been in this office for 11 months now and have consistently argued that necessary cuts in government programs and spending have to not only be fair, but be seen to be fair. The cuts to the seniors' fuel subsidy program and to the jobs such as the NWT Housing Corporation's regional office do not meet that standard. Why can we not promote the novel idea that all residents and all communities have to play their part in solving our financial difficulties?

My constituents, Mr. Speaker, are more than willing to play their part in assisting this government to solve their financial problems as long as it is done fairly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Community Empowerment and Alcohol in The Communities

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome all my colleagues back for the next few weeks of hard work. We have had a bit of a break from the House over the last few months however our work is never done. With the number of activities that took place in most regions this summer I am sure most of us did not get much of a rest. It was however comforting to be with friends and family.

During this session we will be dealing with many issues that are effecting us and our constituents. We must be diligent and in some cases imaginative to ensure our people are receiving the best that we can offer.

Some areas of concern I have included, community empowerment. I would like to make sure that when transfers take place, there are enough resources to provide the services effectively, not give the transfer group less and be expected to do more.

Finding a way to control bootleggers in our communities is another issue that I think needs to be addressed. It seems most accidents and crimes are committed by individuals under the influence of alcohol and in most cases this is probably brought by the local bootlegger in the community. If we want our communities to prosper we must find ways to remove this burden. As you know, Rae-Edzo residents passed a plebiscite recently, restricting the amount of alcohol allowed by a person per month. This was brought into effect on September 15, 1996 and it is still rather early to tell how it will work, but I feel if given the support by the RCMP, the Department of Justice, as well as the various organizations in Rae-Edzo this will be the first step in ridding our community of this problem.

I know there are many issues that we will be discussing over the next while and I also hope our discussion will be meaningful and productive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Rabesca. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement On The Social Envelope

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to welcome everybody back to Yellowknife. My statement today is in the area of the social envelope. The social envelope, as we all know, includes the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment, Health and Social Services, Justice, and Housing.

Mr. Speaker, every year, forced growth eats up a lot of our dollars. Last year, we had to reduce the social envelope's budget by almost \$40 million. What we mean by forced growth is the cost that we cannot control because of a high

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birth rate which relates to higher health and education costs and those related areas. This year will be no exception. We will have huge forced growth in and around \$30 million to \$40 million. This means that unless there is an increase in the social programs area, there will have to be more cuts. Cuts that are tougher than the ones that were made last year. We have been told that the cuts that were made were the easy ones.

Last year, the majority of the Members agreed that each department's budget would be maintained at the same percentage of their overall budget as the previous year. That meant that if Education, Culture and Employment had 15 percent of the overall budget in 1995/96, Education, Culture and Employment had to have 15 percent of the budget in 1996/97.

Mr. Speaker, we also agreed that we would not balance the budget on the backs of those who can least afford it. Unfortunately, because by this we were frozen at the same percentages, tough decisions had to be made in the social programs area.

Rents were increased for seniors in personal care facilities. The fossil fuel subsidy was entirely deleted for some seniors, with no consideration for higher costs of living in certain areas.

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. Social assistance was also lowered or income support as it is now called. We also decreased grants to organizations such as the Mental Health Association. We lowered the funds to the health boards, education boards and alcohol and drug rehabilitation centres. These are just examples.

The Minister of Education now indicates that our student/teacher ratio is now the highest in Canada. If cuts continue, we surely will be the highest in Canada. We also have the worst high school graduation rate in Canada. Now we are told that we have to close rehabilitation centres and hospitals while we have the worst rate of alcoholism and suicide.

Mr. Speaker, this government has a responsibility for the education and safety of our citizens. We cannot afford more cuts in these areas. This government must allow the budgets of the departments in the social envelope to increase in relation to other departments. I am not talking about keeping people on social assistance. I am talking about increasing the budget in the area of education and training so we can get people off of income support or social assistance. I am talking about helping our elders so that they can live independently, in dignity. I am talking about things like making sure the health of our citizens is a priority, not an afterthought to balancing the budget.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. KRUTKO:

I would like to recognize a colleague of ours, Fred Koe, former MLA for Inuvik.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Members to Liz Wyman and Julia Mott. They are here today as representatives of the business firm of Office Compliments which has been awarded the contract to provide Hansard services to the Legislative Assembly. Some of you may also know Liz as the past president of the Yellowknife

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Chamber of Commerce. She is here with her parents, Ferne and Bill Wyman, and also one of the original partners of Office Compliments, Marg Hall. I would like to close by extending my congratulations to Office Compliments on their tenth anniversary which is being celebrated Friday. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, and welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors from the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize today one of my constituents, who is now temporarily residing in Yellowknife, Pat Thomas, the president of the Northwest Territories Teachers Association.

---Applause

And I would also like to recognize Lydia Bardak who is here today. Lydia is the executive director of the NWT Council for the Disabled. Her assistant was here, I wanted to recognize here too. After spending the summer on crutches, I have new appreciation for the work these people do, and I would like to recognize them today.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors from the gallery. Mr Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Rosemary Cairns. Rosemary has run our elections with an iron hand, and she is a member of my constituency from Yellowknife North. She has also just come back from Bosnia to help there. I would also like to recognize Alderman Vi Beck. I would also like to recognize Doreen Baptiste, who is here from Saskatchewan. I met her when I was attending school there in Saskatoon. Also, my lovely wife Leonie, sitting with Doreen.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors from the gallery, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. and Mrs. John and Helen Maksagak. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the newest members of our local media.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 359-13(3): Cessation of Government Leasing Staff Houses

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Minister of the Financial Management Board Secretariat, Mr. Todd. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I met with several of our dedicated employees in Iqaluit. I have been informed that this government will now cease to hold leases for staff housing. Understandably, Mr. Speaker, this has caused much concern. Can the Minister for the

FMBS, Mr. Todd, update this House on the status of these leases?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board, Mr. Todd.

Return to Question 359-13(3): Cessation of Government Leasing Staff Houses

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of the leases specific that Mr. Picco talking about, because he did not identify them. But if he is talking about some of the leases that are in his constituency, we are working with that constituency, and with the people in those houses towards trying to provide alternative housing to those who are in the leased housing at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral question,

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supplementary. Mr. Picco.

Supplementary to Question 359-13(3): Cessation of Government Leasing Staff Houses

MR. PICCO:

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I did not make the question clear enough for Mr. Todd. I meant the high rise apartment complexes and several single individual units that we are leasing as a government. Maybe Mr. Todd can tell me what is going to happen to these tenants now that we are going to cease leasing and they will have the lease on the open market. What type of strategy we are going to put in place to help the easement of these employees into an uncertain marketplace? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Supplementary to Question 359-13(3): Cessation of Government Leasing Staff Houses

HON. JOHN TODD:

I will write to my honourable colleague and explain to him in detail what we were doing, but since he would

like to make it public, I am prepared to do that. Could have found out in the newspaper I guess.

The point of the matter is that this government is going to get out of staff housing. I am tired of saying it, I am going to say it again. We are going to be out of staff housing. We are going to sell the houses to our employees, and here there are leases. We are going to release these leases if it provides no undue hardship to the owners of those particular leases.

What we are working with in Mr. Picco's riding and the people in that brown building, or row housing he is talking about, we are working with them right now to find a way in which to, over a phased period of time, providing them with some financial assistance to ultimately get out of the leased accommodation where we believe the landlord is acting in an unfair manner with respect to highjacking the rates. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral question, supplementary. Mr. Picco.

Supplementary to Question 359-13(3): Cessation of Government Leasing Staff Houses

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again Mr. Speaker, I have to apologize to Mr. Todd for not being more clear and of course I did receive the letter from Mr. Todd, but that letter was to me, it was not to the constituents of Iqaluit or the people of the Northwest Territories. Therefore, my question was so it could come out in the open and discover who is doing it. I am sure Mr. Todd appreciates that question. My supplementary question then to Mr. Todd is that a lot of these houses of course are furnished, and right now I understand, I did see a couple of vans moving in, and our employees taking furniture out of these units and storing it. Of course a couple of weeks later they go on a public tender and then anyone could buy them. My question to Mr. Todd is will the FMBS direct our departmental officials in the region and in Iqaluit specifically, to allow our employees to buy this furniture that they have had in their apartments for six, seven, ten years, before we seize it, put it in a warehouse and tender it. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question 359-13(3): Cessation Of Government Leasing Staff Houses

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker. This applies to everybody in the Northwest Territories, however I did send it to the tenants that Mr. Picco was talking about. And if there is a problem with respect to furniture, I am not aware of it. I will review it with my officials, and we will be only too happy to report back to this House, or through letter, to Mr. Picco on this issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank You. Final supplementary. Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 359-13(3): Cessation Of Government Leasing Staff Houses

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Todd is in fine form today. What I would like to ask Mr. Todd, in my final supplementary question, concerns what he had said earlier about the government of the Northwest Territories moving towards helping our constituents moving to the work, to the open marketplace. Would Mr. Todd be able to give me something in writing so that I can take it back to

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my constituents and let my constituents know that Mr. Todd is very concerned about their well being, so that they can see this, and maybe some type of financial amount or more clarification of what type of an arrangement Mr. Todd would be making to help said constituents. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question 359-13(3): Cessation Of Government Leasing Staff Houses

HON. JOHN TODD:

It takes one to know one. Mr. Speaker, I think right now I have to get Cabinet approval for this policy that we are working on. Once the Cabinet has approved that policy, I would be only too happy to share it with the honourable colleague and the tenants who are affected. It is the overall objective of this government to ensure that our staff are given adequate resources to be able to pay the rent, at the same time, we have an obligation to ensure that landlords are not using this as an excuse to blackmail both the tenants and

this government which we will not stand for. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 360-13(3): Negotiations With BHP

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. I would like the Premier, if he could, to elaborate a bit for the benefit of all of us, and people in the Northwest Territories as a whole, as to the type of negotiations that are currently underway with BHP? And, the time frame when those will be complete? You made passing reference to them in your speech, and I would like to get a bit of elaboration to that if I could please.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Premier. Mr. Morin.

Return to Question 360-13(3): Negotiations With BHP

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Currently, our negotiations with BHP are on a socio-economic agreement between the government and BHP. Our government, and that includes the Department of Indian Affairs as well. There is also a negotiation happening on community benefit agreements between Treaty 8 and Treaty 11, North and South Slave Metis, and community benefit agreements as well as negotiations on environmental monitoring. I believe that one is pretty well done. It looks like it is coming together, and that Northerners will benefit from this project. Hopefully it will be concluded by Friday. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions supplementary. Mr. O'Brien

Question 361-13(3) Status of job strategy development

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question refers to the fact that when people are unemployed or laid off, there is a silent but sizeable cost to this government, not to mention the emotional trauma and

decrease in the quality of life. My question is directed to the Premier concerning this government's job strategy. Can the Premier tell this House and all unemployed Northerners, in brief, if we have a job strategy, and what is it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Supplementary To Question 361-13(3): Status of Job Strategy Development

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. We are developing a job strategy, and the Minister responsible, Mr. John Todd, is working with members of this Assembly on a strategy of bringing investment into the Northwest Territories, and also to capitalize on our renewable resources that are out and we are able to capitalize on in the very near future as well as non-renewable resource employment. This government is on record as saying development is going to happen in the Northwest Territories, Northerners will benefit, or we would not support that involvement. We are in support of any type of development that creates employment for residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions

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supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 361-13(3): Status of Job Strategy Development

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I take that as we really do not have a strategy yet, it is in the works, so therefore my question would be when can we expect this strategy to be released and tabled here in the House? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 361-13(3): Status of Job Strategy Development

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think it is premature to talk about tabling a job strategy in this House. We have not got any agreements in writing or legally binding agreements with mining developers that are hoping to develop the nonrenewable resources in this country. So until that is finished, it would not be tabled in this House. Thank You.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral question supplementary. Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 361-13(3): Status of Job Strategy Development

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Given the fact that we are, as Mr. Todd, the Minister of Finance has indicated, we basically have two more budgets left so time is running out. When can we expect this document to be brought forward? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Okay, Mr. Premier, would you like to respond? That is the same question again.

Supplementary To Question 361-13(3): Status of Job Strategy Development

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We realise the urgency of developing a job strategy for the Northwest Territories and we are working on that. We are working on that in partnership with other members of this assembly and so today I cannot commit to a time when that will be tabled and in what session of a future assembly. But let me assure the member, we agree it is an important priority and we are working on it with all of you. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 361-13(3): Status of Job Strategy Development

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is regrettable. Can the Premier tell this House how many jobs were lost in the past year and if there has been any study or analysis done to see what kind of an impact these

jobs are having on our social program such as social services, justice and so on. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Morin. That was two questions.

Supplementary To Question 361-13(3): Status of Job Strategy Development

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are fairly vague questions and kind of tough to answer. If he would clarify what jobs he is talking about, where he is talking about then I might have a possibility of answering the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. You have had your final supplementary, Mr. O'Brien. Oral questions? Mr. Ootes.

Question 362-13(3): Highway Improvements In The Yellowknife Region

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Highways and Transportation. I had the opportunity of driving the Mackenzie Highway this summer and I must compliment the Minister for a fine job that the highway construction has done. That is up until the Yellowknife - Rae portion which has a hundred and sixty curves in it. I wonder if the Minister of Transportation could update us on the schedule for the Yellowknife region of highway improvements in this area.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 362-13(3): Highway Improvements In The Yellowknife Region

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HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the highway reconstruction between the Rae-Edzo and Yellowknife portion as we all know is very rough, I live in Fort Simpson so I drive it quite often so I am fully aware of what the honourable member is talking

about. As for the construction of this road, it is in the long term plan of this department.

The current plan we have is that next year we start with planning of it and then the following year and about three years from now, hopefully, we start some sort of construction. But this is a long term plan and as we know this is an evolving budget and as we go along we will inform the member of the developments of this plan. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 362-13(3): Highway Improvements In The Yellowknife Region

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the potential activity that is to take place on our highways, the Yellowknife to Rae portion and then the portion on the Ingraham Trail, we foresee that there will be very, very heavy traffic potentially if the government reaches conclusion on it's memorandum of understanding with BHP and the licensings go ahead, but we will see tremendous traffic on these particular roads. I am wondering if the Minister has taken this into account and if he could tell us what kind of impact this additional traffic could have on the deterioration of these roads.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 362-13(3): Highway Improvements In The Yellowknife Region

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department is fully aware of the possible consequences of further resource development north of Yellowknife and the section of the highway between Rae and Yellowknife which is the uncompleted section. It is an area where we have to concentrate our efforts.

As the development and the amount of traffic increases certainly the road is going to be used a lot more and at the current level the maintenance will have to be looked at, but as I said earlier in my answer, the department is looking at this scenario and we are planning a strategy on how we could deal with

it. We are developing a strategy plan, as I said in the last session, Mr. Speaker, when I talked about the future of this department and the type of work that we need to do.

We need to develop partnerships with the industry and this government as well as the federal government and perhaps different corporations out there. We have to be innovative in our thinking in trying to address these major costs because the construction of this section of the highway is going to be a very major cost and the type of funding that we have currently is not adequate enough to do the type of work we need to do.

So, we have to be innovative and we have to look at new ways of how to do this work. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, oral question, supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 362-13(3): Highway Improvements In The Yellowknife Region

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My honourable colleague next to me asked me if I counted the curves in the road on the way to Yellowknife, I started to but I made a pretty good guess at how many there are.

The next question I have concerns the proposal to mix private, public and possible aboriginal sector investment in the construction of the new highways and the Minister has referred to this potential strategy. I wonder if the Minister could tell us what kind of time frame he is looking at for this strategy considering that this may be a real priority for us in this part of the territory to address the question of highways.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 362-13(3): Highway Improvements In The Yellowknife Region

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr.

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Speaker. Once again, Mr. Speaker, this new scheme that we are working on is in the development stage it

is fairly hard to say exactly right now what kind of time frame we are looking at. Next year, we hopefully start planning the actual road site, if it goes through the different processes for approval. In the meantime, between now and then we are going to have to sit down and develop some sort of a strategy which the department has done. We need to get involved with the other possible partners and develop the plan together because we cannot do it alone.

So, my answer to the honourable member, Mr. Speaker, is that at this point in time it is difficult to say what kind of time frame we are looking at. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 362-13(3): Highway Improvements In The Yellowknife Region

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could commit to make the Yellowknife highway system of the highest priority considering the fact that we have this potential traffic on these highways and the potential accidents that could occur on some portions of the highway. Lives may be at stake of we do not improve it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 362-13(3): Highway Improvements In The Yellowknife Region

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable member is putting me on the spot here, but the way I would like to answer it is that we have to look at the whole highway system. There are other interests out there as well, in regards to development of our infrastructure. The highest priority, however, according to the department is to reconstruct and re-develop existing infrastructure. So, in that regard, it is already in there and we are looking at the existing road and we know it has to get done. We are also looking at our finances and we are looking at different ways of trying to do this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Krutko.

Question 363-13(3): Re: Request By Tl'oondih Healing Society

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier, it is regard to a motion that I moved and was passed in the Committee of the Whole, which requests the Minister of Health and Social Services in Executive Council to 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. My question to the Premier is, what has been done to date with that request which was passed in Committee of the Whole. How soon will those negotiations be completed?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 363-13(3): Re: Request By Tl'oondih Healing Society

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member knows I will take this question as notice and I will get the Minister to reply to him. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, the question is taken as notice. Oral questions, Mr. Roland.

Question 364-13(3): Dempster Highway

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, although I would like to see the Dempster highway paved, we would like to actually see the road remain open. So, can the Minister inform us of the discussion that went on between the Yukon government and the territorial government concerning the Dempster highway?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return to Question 364-13(3): Dempster Highway

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this summer I had the opportunity to drive the Dempster Highway from

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Inuvik through Fort McPherson all the way to Whitehorse and at the end of this trip I had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Transportation for the Yukon government. As of a few days ago, that government is no longer there. The Minister is no longer there, but however, there is on going discussions between the officials of both departments, the deputy minister of the transportation from the Yukon government as well as his counterpart, my deputy minister, have been meeting on a regular basis. After the new government is formed in the Yukon, then we will sit down with the new government and see if the conditions we have laid out are still there.

Mr. Speaker, the Dempster Highway, I am told will remain open, however, there is discussion about the level of maintenance that is currently on that section of the highway. It was discussed by the Yukon government, they were looking at, they are also looking at budget reductions in the Yukon, therefore, they were looking at this section of the highway for reducing the level of maintenance and they were looking at different scenarios on how to do that.

We were at that stage in the discussion when the election was called in the Yukon and at this point in time we do not know who the new Minister is going to be, but as far as the discussion between the officials, they are going on and, hopefully, once we know who the new Minister is we will try to sit down with them as soon as possible and resume our discussion. Hopefully, they will have changed a little bit of direction by that time and that the type of level of maintenance they were talking about reducing will not be as much as they were asking for, hopefully. But this is, in all our discussions, this will take place. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, oral question, supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary to 364-13(3): Paving Dempster Highway

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the further discussion that will happen once the new Minister is appointed, I

would like to know if the MLAs affected by the Dempster Highway could be involved in the process? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary to 364-13(3): Paving Dempster Highway

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our Premier has communicated with the new Premier of the Yukon and they have talked and agreed to work closely with each other on all issues. So, it is a good opening note, and yes, to the question of the honourable Member that the MLAs affected should be closely involved in this whole process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 365-13(3): Review of Affirmative Action

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to Minister Todd and it is in regard to the much anticipated and long overdue review of affirmative action.

We reviewed it through government operations on June 14th and it was in the middle, almost a year before that, I was wondering if the Minister could indicate to the House when he anticipates being able to table a document in the House that can be debated. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return to Question 365-13(3): Review of Affirmative Action

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague is correct there was the report that went to the Government Operations on June 14th that I sent, I believe. We did receive some comments and some directions from the Government Operations Committee. Given the sensitivity of this issue and the importance of it, in that we need to move forward into getting more aboriginal northerners into the civil service, we are trying to

incorporate the concerns that were expressed by the committee. We are going to try and have that together as soon as we can.

I am a bit concerned, if I may answer this way, that when we talk about affirmative action and

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then my honourable colleague earlier talked about job strategy, to me, in a sense, even though they are of similar mind, there are two separate entities. So, I am having some difficulty with that, but I am hoping and I am optimistic that we will be able to conclude this report, including the recommendations made by the Government Operations Committee, as quickly as possible and, if not table in the House in the next two weeks, certainly get it ready for January. I apologize to my colleague for the delay in this important matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 365-13(3): Review Of Affirmative Action

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realise this is a sensitive issue as the Minister indicated. I would like the Minister to expand on the issue of tying this possibly to the northern job strategy, which was one of the points that was raised on the review. It is an issue which we have talked about for debate in the House and as opposed to just a review, part of what could be an overall strategy affirmative action policy, could the Minister indicate whether there might be a plan to lay out an outline of how we could integrate affirmative action into an overall job strategy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question 365-13(3): Review Of Affirmative Action

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you. My notes indicate here, Mr. Speaker, that the next draft will be provided to the committee, hopefully in November, it says here. So in fairness to my colleague I can say that I would like to point out

what my concern is. My concern is not so much the need for an integrated approach, is not so much the need for increased affirmative action strategy, because our success rate, particularly the last three or four years, really has not moved significantly. It is somewhere about 35%. My concern is in the dollars.

If at the end of the day this is going to cost thirty or forty million dollars as has been suggested in the initial review audit, where are they going to come from. That is the difficulty that I am in right now, trying to determine, and agreeing with the Members on affirmative action strategy, a jobs strategy, there is an integration there, but there is a cost attached to it. So that is the dilemma that we are in right now. And I have not, quite frankly, at this stage of the game, worked that out as to report back to the committee and to this House on how we would accomplish it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral question. Supplementary. Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 365-13(3): Review Of Affirmative Action

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think this House, the members that are not in cabinet would be greatly interested in those kinds of questions with the Minister, in order to try to bring forward the best possible plan that recognizes the fiscal realities. I would hope that that kind of undo caution which could be seen as dithering, would not be a reason not to come forward with something concrete.

On an issue that is of significance that has been talked about and reviewed and people have been consulted up and down and sideways, I think it is time, and it is incumbent upon cabinet to put something out for discussion. It is an issue that is not going to go away. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question 365-13(3): Review Of Affirmative Action

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to assure my honourable colleague, we are not dithering. We recognize the importance of this issue. I am proud to say for example in my region, that we are, I think, the highest in terms of aboriginal content to our civil service. I would like to see the same objectives that have been accomplished there right across the territories. I think we all want to do that. Not only is there a moral obligation, there is also a fiscal one. It makes sense if northerners and aboriginal northerners are in the civil service, it makes sense, because they tend to, in my opinion,

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spend their money in the north.

So, I would suggest to my colleague that what he has asked me, we are trying to accomplish. We will want, as we did previously, the input and direction and recommendations of the committee. Hopefully, we can package this all together for November. But I am cautioning him now, that there is a cost attached to it. It may be a cost we have to pay. But I am suggesting to you that that is where my over-riding concern is. Not so much the need for it, as whether it is moral or fiscal. It is the cost that is going to be attached to it.

Again, that will all be brought out in the report. Hopefully, the next draft will be available, as I said, for committee in November. I would be only too happy to look forward to the recommendations and input that will be given to us so that we can conclude this issue, and get on with it, before we divide the two territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 366-13(3): Job Cuts In Next Fiscal Year

MR. HENRY:

Thank you Mr. Minister. My question will be addressed to the Minister of Financial Management Board, Mr. Todd. In a couple of weeks time, the committees will be looking at the business plans from the departments. My question to the Minister is, at this stage, does he have any indication as to the potential number of job cuts that have been identified in the next fiscal year?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister Responsible for the Financial Management Board, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 366-13(3): Job Cuts In Next Fiscal Year

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I did commit to my colleague that I would try to be as direct as I could today on this questioning. But I am a little hesitant, because we only got the business plans last week, and we are summarizing the impact of these business plans, and the targets that we have to reach, and the tough task that is ahead of us, as the Premier outlined in his initial address today.

I think it would be fair to say that there are still going to be significant cuts in government that will include positions, and, if I could just get some clarity from my honourable colleague as to, does he want some indication how many additional cuts across the framework, or within a specific constituency? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 366-13(3): Job Cuts In Next Fiscal Year

MR. HENRY:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, the number of potential job losses across the Government of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question 366-13(3): Job Cuts In Next Fiscal Year

HON. JOHN TODD:

As I have said, I believe, consistently, last year, I think we looked at 350 PYS. I stand to be corrected. I believe the actual job loss per se, was about 180, 185, again, I think if my memory serves me correct, I hope it does. That is what we are looking at. Again, I am not trying to be evasive, but because the business plans have not been approved by the ordinary members, it is difficult to suggest a fixed number. I am prepared to say that there would be more cuts

coming, and they could be significant. Yes. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral question, supplementary. Mr. Henry.

Supplementary Question to 366-13(3): Job Cuts In Next Fiscal Year

MR. HENRY:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Could I get some assurances from the Minister that a minimum of six months notice, a minimum of six months notice would be given to people who are affected by downsizing or job loss?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

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Supplementary To Question 366-13(3): Job Cuts In Next Fiscal Year

HON. JOHN TODD:

In the first round of cuts which were difficult enough for everybody, we have tried to manage them in as compassionate way as we could. I believe that if you look at the PYs, 350, I think if I am right, and in fact there was only 180, I should not say, only 180, but there was 180 actual jobs lost. We have tried to manage our way through this thing to minimize the job loss. I believe that under the collective agreement, we have to give 90 days. We would have to check on that, okay? But, similarly, I know what my honourable colleague's concerns are. We need to tell our employees if it ends up where they are unfortunately, no longer required, give them as much time as possible, and if it is possible to give them six months notice, I will do it. But I will need to check with Mr. Voytilla of the FMBS to make sure that I am meeting the requirements of the collective agreement, etcetera.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 367-13(3): Disclosure Notice From 13th Of May

MR. PICCO:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, of course I have several questions today, but I will try to keep to a minimum of two to give other people a chance to ask questions.

I think I will ask a question to the Premier. On May 13th, a memorable motion passed in this House, motion 7-13(3), dealing with disclosure of public contracts, sole source contracts and negotiated contracts. On that date, Mr. Morin told me that, when we come back in October, we would discuss it.

It is October, it is October the 2nd, the House is back, and I am still waiting, I have been waiting all summer. I may add that I have had several phone calls, faxes, e-mails, since I am on the internet now, from constituents, residents of the Northwest Territories, asking when the Government of the Northwest Territories would act on the motion to disclose this said motion. As we all remember, there were 17 abstentions, and I will not go into that. So my question to Mr. Morin is, when is Mr. Morin going to act on the motion passed in this house on the 13th of May, concerning disclosure. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 367-13(3): Disclosure Notice From 13th of May

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. It is early in October, October 2nd today. I will look into the Member's issue, and get back to him before the end of the month. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Picco. Supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 367-13(3): Disclosure Notice From 13th of May

MR. PICCO:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. As always, the Premier is so committed, and I respect his comment, at the end of the month. Well, the end of the month, and I may not be here to see it. So, I would like a better timeframe from the Minister, the Premier. We have had since May to think about it. May, June, July, August, September, that is five months. I think the people of the Northwest Territories deserve an opportunity. I would like the Minister to come back with a better

answer than to say that, indeed, that before the end of the month, he will back to me on it. Can the Minister commit to the people of the Northwest Territories that, indeed, this government will be open, and by open I mean, with the facts on the table, so we know who is getting negotiated sole source contracts, and publish those figures, and tell me when he will be doing this, other than, at the end of the month, maybe.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 367-13(3): Disclosure Notice From 13th of May

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that we do publish all contracts that are let by the Government of the Northwest Territories. That information is available to the Member, as well as all members of the public of the Northwest Territories. If he needs it, I guess, more clear, then we will look at

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getting that done before the end of this session. I am going to have to revisit that motion and look at that debate we had, or question and answer period we had in the previous Assembly, and then I will get back to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 367-13(3): Disclosure Notice From 13th of May

MR. PICCO:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am experiencing deja vu. Of course, during my line of questioning, I will refresh the Premier. He kept telling me that indeed we did publish these numbers and figures, and I burnt the midnight oil. I see Mr. Todd talking to the Premier, I am sure Mr. Todd remembers the line of questioning too. Indeed we do publish it. But it does not break down into the public accounts record of the Northwest Territories, what are sole source and what are negotiated. So the motion that Mr. Morin needs to remember, basically stated that this House recommended that we would publish the contracts, break them down by negotiated, sole source, and publicly tendered. So I would ask Mr. Morin, after

knowing, and after listening to me, and Mr. Todd, his confidante, maybe Mr. Morin now could answer my question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 367-13(3): Disclosure Notice From 13th of May

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, in talking to my Minister Responsible for the Department of Public Works and Government Services, who is in charge of the majority of the contracts under this government, and who understands the document, he said it reads fairly easily. But he would be willing to sit down tomorrow anytime with Mr. Picco to explain it to him so that he could understand it. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions on the Supplementary. Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 367-13(3): Disclosure Notice From 13th of May

MR. PICCO:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the fudge factor is working overtime. I will be happy to sit down with the Minister of Public Works tomorrow and demonstrate to him that, indeed, it is not there. And then I will be back tomorrow with some more questions for my honourable colleague, the Premier. Thank you.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The question is to a different minister, so it is out of order. I also would like to remind the members about their questions. You have a preamble, then you have three supplementaries. You do not repeat your same preamble, and all the questions. Just to remind the members to have your preamble, and then ask your questions in three supplementaries. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas. Point of order. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Todd was talking and I could not hear what you had to say. Could you just say that again for me regarding the preamble. I could not hear you over Mr. Todd.

MR. SPEAKER:

It is not a point of order, but for clarification, to remind the Members that when you get up to ask a question you have an opportunity to explain your question, the preamble. Then you ask your question. Then you ask three questions to the response of what the Ministers have to say. I am just reminding the Members not to continuously have the preamble and then the questions for all the questions. You should only have one preamble and then your supplementary questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 367-13(3): Airport In Resolute Bay

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends) ...and resulted drastically during the summer and one of the largest reductions was to the project to upgrade the airport in Resolute Bay. This is the central hub for air transportation in the entire Canadian High Arctic. It is critical to the health and safety of my constituents and plays a critical role in the economic development plans for the region. The airport is very old and in need of major upgrading. My question is to the Minister of Transportation. Could he please explain to this House the

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decision made by his department of the cut from this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 368-13(3): Airport In Resolute Bay

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Resolute Bay air terminal building is going to be replaced. The original plan was to begin the construction in the 1996/97 year, finishing off in 1998/99. The new plan is to finish the construction at the same time, 1998/99. However, there are some changes this year because the project was delayed because of the inability to confirm the requirements of the flight service station

from the federal government. We waited for the federal government to make a decision as to whether or not they were going to have the flight service station in it. Up to this point in time, they have not decided. As a result of that, the plan for the airport terminal building was to include this flight service station which is at the considerable cost of \$1.6 million. As a result of the delay and waiting for the federal government to make a decision, we have decided that it is too late to do anything this year, so we have delayed this project. Some work will be done this year, and the bulk of the work will start next year with the conclusion of the project at the same time in 1998/99 as the original plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ministers. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 368-13(3): Airport In Resolute Bay

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister of Transportation please explain how this project will improve the transportation and safety in the High Arctic when the status of the airport will be reduced from its current level "A". Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. If the Minister feels comfortable enough to answer, go ahead.

Supplementary To Question 368-13(3): Airport In Resolute Bay

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the airport terminal building that the department is planning to build here is a substantial building and will include a CARS operation in there. At some point in time in the future, if the federal government so decides to put a flight service station at Resolute Bay -- it is not up to us to decide, it is the federal government to decide if they are going to have the flight service station in there -- then, they will have to make their own plans in putting the flight service station there which would probably mean a stand alone building sometime in the future. At the present time, to do the job, to put the airport terminal building in there, we are making provisions for a CARS operation in there which is

substantially less than what the flight service station would have had.

It is a question of safety. We know the airport terminal building is going to be a new building and it is going to provide the type of facility that is required in Resolute Bay. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 369-13(3): Funding For Wharf In Clyde River

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people in Clyde River have asked for a wharf for a number of years now and also this summer. I have met with the Department of Transportation this past summer and they have found some funding to build this wharf. Mr. Speaker, the question I have for the Minister of Transportation is, how much funding is available for this in Clyde River? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 369-13(3): Funding For Wharf In Clyde River

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Clyde River breakwater is in the Department of Transportation's capital plan. It is estimated at \$1.25 million at the present time. This current year, we are finalizing the design to complete it and it is \$25,000. Hopefully the rest

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of the construction will start in 1997/98. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 370-13(3): GNWT And BHP Negotiations

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, we have heard the public statements by the Premier and the Minister of

Finance and that they are trying to negotiate benefit impact agreements with BHP so that they can ensure there are jobs for northerners and business opportunities for northern businesses. My question to the Minister is, at what stage are these negotiations between the GNWT and BHP?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 370-13(3): GNWT And BHP Negotiations

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These negotiations are at the very final stages. I believe we have until October 8th to finalize these negotiations. This is when another paper will go to Cabinet for a final decision on the BHP project. The negotiations are going fairly well, and this is the final week that we have right now -- about two or three more days. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 370-13(3): GNWT And BHP Negotiations

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier indicate whether he believes he will be successful in negotiating a package whereby we can ensure jobs for northerners and business opportunities from this venture?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 370-13(3): GNWT And BHP Negotiations

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am announcing the conditional go ahead of this project. The Minister responsible, Ron Irwin, said he wanted to see some substantial progress on these negotiations. We believe that the way things are going today, the last report I got is that the negotiations are going fairly well and we are looking at hopefully concluding these

negotiations so that northerners do benefit not only from jobs but the spin-off of industry. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 370-13(3): GNWT And BHP Negotiations

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier confirm what actions this government has taken to ensure that the north and Yellowknife is attractive to new mining development initiatives such as the BHP project?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 370-13(3): GNWT And BHP Negotiations

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have always, since we got elected a year ago, been a very strong supporter of mining, a very strong supporter of encouraging people to come and develop the Northwest Territories. But, we have always said we wanted to make sure that when people came in to develop the Northwest Territories and the development of renewable resources. We wanted to make sure that northerners benefited. We got the jobs and we got the service industry work for our companies in the Northwest Territories and we will continue to say that to any new company coming. That is what we have done. We have taken every opportunity to make sure that northerners benefited from the projects -- Yellowknife and other communities as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 371-13(3): Outstanding Negotiations

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following-up on questions from my honourable colleague to

the Premier, could I get the Premier to tell me what issues -- and not on the Aboriginal Impact Benefit Agreement, I see that as separate -- are still outstanding that this government is negotiating specifically? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Just to remind the Members that the government is in the process of negotiating the best possible deal for the people of the North and, of course, this all depends on what the positions are of the other parties. If we give away too much, it might be to the disadvantage of this government. I would like to caution the Members. I would also like to caution the government on the level of information you provide to the Members. Mr. Premier, if you would like to respond.

Return To Question 371-13(3): Outstanding Negotiations

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is now 3:30 p.m., and I do not know what outstanding issues are outstanding at this time. Our negotiators are in negotiations right now and they are doing the best possible job to ensure the North's interests are protected. That is our job. Also, some of the BHP team is in Lutsel K'e today negotiating with Treaty 8 as well. I would be able to update Members probably better on Friday. To me, the information I got so far, negotiations are going very well. All parties are coming to the table with an open mind with the want to start a diamond project in the Northwest Territories and the want to make sure that northerners do benefit from that type of project. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 372-13(3): Legal Agreement With BHP

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will follow-up on the BHP question with respect to the government's negotiations. Could the Premier tell us is they are negotiating a memorandum of understanding or is it a legal agreement that can be binding on the company?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 372-13(3): Legal Agreement With BHP

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is all part of our negotiations so, like I said earlier, we will make an update to Members possibly on Friday. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 372-13(3): Legal Agreement With BHP

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know if the Premier could commit to releasing that memorandum of understanding or the legal document if the negotiations are successful or nor successful. Could he commit to release that to the Members after the 8th of October?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 372-13(3): Legal Agreement With BHP

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that under consideration. I will think about it and take this question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question is being taken as notice. Oral questions, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 373-13(3): Removal Of Payroll Tax

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. I was wondering if he could give us the rationale behind his department's contemplating removing the payroll tax at this time. I know there is a lot of opposition to the payroll tax at the time it was implemented but we have put up with it for some time now to no great net benefit to our government coffers.

However, on the verge of such extensive mineral sector development when we will probably be seeing a lot of non-northerners, at least to some extent there will be non-northerners working in the Northwest Territories, the timing just seems a bit odd to me and I was wondering if he might give us his rationale for proposing such a change

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at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 373-13(3): Removal Of Payroll Tax

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I want to assure my colleague that the payroll tax is not under consideration at this time. It was an issue I was asked a question in a meeting, am I getting good at the payroll tax, and my response was that like everything else we were considering. That is the best way I can answer my honourable colleague today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 374-13(3): Negotiations - Release Of Information

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier, once again, on these negotiations. Was there an agreement between the company and the government that there would be no releases of information during these talks? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 374-13(3): Negotiations - Release Of Information

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Normally, when people negotiate, the negotiate from certain positions and it is just the way our government does business. We do not put our negotiation position in the newspapers we

take it to the table instead and try to work with people we are negotiating with in order to come to an agreement that is good for the Northwest Territories, good for the people Of the Northwest Territories and the businesses of the Northwest Territories and also good for the company. So that is the approach that we have taken and I do not think we are going to change that approach. I think it is better to do business that way.

Once we have come to an agreement we will be talking to all members of this assembly on what is in that agreement. Whether or not I can release it publicly I do not know. It is going to be an agreement between a company and ourselves so that type of decision will have to be made jointly. Also I would have to talk to my Cabinet colleagues about that.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, no we do not have an agreement right now with the company on whether or not we should release any part of it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question period is now over. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, perhaps I would follow normal procedure and have the Clerk deal with my written response to a question by Mr. Levi Barnabas on May 21st, 96. Thank you.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, Return to Written Question 6-13(3) asked by Mr. Barnabas and responded to by the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development concerning a Nanisivik Mine Training and Employment Agreement.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Returns to written questions. Replies to opening address. Replies to opening address. Reports of Standing or Special Committees. Petitions. Petitions, Mr. Henry.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition No. 57-13(3) containing 2979 signatures from residents of Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request and urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to retain Northwest Territories as our name when two separate territories are formed in 1999, for these reasons.

First, Northwest Territories is an historical name northerners of every race claim with pride. Their pride is one of the few common bonds we have as Dene, Metis, Inuit and all other Northerners. We need all the unity we can muster to build a

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new territory. And, secondly, Northwest Territories conveys an exciting and intriguing image for tourism, accurately describes what our new territory will be physically and it's a name known worldwide today. We spent millions establishing that recognition. Why spend another fortune to start over again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of Documents, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition No. 58-13(3) dealing with the matter of the renaming of the western territory Mr. Speaker. The petition No. 58-13(3) contains 494 signatures from residents of Hay River, and Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request; we, the undersigned, feel that the name for the western territory should remain as is, the Northwest Territories. As most of us have either been born here or have resided in the Northwest Territories for most of our lifetime we consider the Northwest Territories our home and would like to see the name remain as is. Thank you.

I have another petition, should I do it now?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Petitions, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one, two, three, four, five, six petitions, one, petition No. 60-13(3) with 29 signatures, one petition No. 61-13(3) with 8 signatures, one petition No. 62-13(3) with 6

signatures, one petition No. 63-13(3) with 7 signatures, one petition No. 64-13(3) with 9 signatures and one petition NO. 65-13(3) with 57 signatures regarding the naming of the new western territory after division and the petitioners request and urge the Government of the NWT to retain Northwest Territories as our name when two separate territories are formed in 1999 for these reasons.

One, Northwest Territories is an historic name northerners of every race claim with pride. That pride is one of the few common bonds we have as Dene, Metis, Inuit and other Northerners. We need all the unity we can muster to build a new territory.

Two, Northwest Territories conveys an exciting and intriguing image for tourism, accurately describes what our new territory will be physically and is a name known worldwide today. We have spent millions to establish that recognition. Why spend another fortune to start over again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item ten, petitions, Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present Petition No. 66-13(3) dealing with the matter of a request for the early parole of Mr. James Jaypoody from the Baffin Correctional Centre.

Mr. Speaker, the Petition No. 66-13(3) contains 152 signatures and Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that Mr. James Jaypoody be considered for approval of early parole and that he be allowed to serve the remainder of his sentence because he is an elder, he has a heart condition and the petitioners are confident that he is not a threat to the community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for not bringing this up at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to present Petition No. 67-13(3) dealing with the matter of the naming of the new western territory after division. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 98 signatures from residents of Yellowknife, and Mr. Speaker the petition requests;

we, the undersigned, are not in agreement with changing the name of the Northwest Territories. The

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Northwest Territories has played an important role in Canadian history and the name should remain the same. The cost involved in changing the name should be reason enough not to consider a name change. In these days of fiscal restraint. This is not good place to start. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, petitions. Alright. Item 11, Report of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12, reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a letter Tabled Document 68-13(3) from the Minister of Finance received September 16th, 1966 sorry, 1996 - what is thirty years in this House -- by the Standing Committee on Operations which identifies changes made to the 1996/97 capital plan. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, tabling of documents. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I wish to table a resolution Tabled Document 69-13(3) of the Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories with respect to the naming of the new western territory.

Mr. Speaker, the motion reads as follows; whereas, the Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories finds great significance with the name of the NWT as the Northwest Territories; and whereas, the Native Women of the Northwest Territories were born in the Northwest Territories and have lived in the Northwest Territories; and whereas, the Native Women of the Northwest Territories have had children born, raised and educated and still live in the Northwest Territories; and whereas, the Native Women of the NWT find the Northwest Territories a name that has significant meaning to them and their families; and whereas, the Native Women's Association of the NWT at their twentieth anniversary assembly have declared that the Northwest Territories

remain as the Northwest Territories; therefore be it further resolved that the Native Women's Association of the NWT lobby the territorial government and the Members of the Legislative Assembly to have the name remain as Northwest Territories.

Whereas, a territory will be established in the western NWT; and whereas, talks on the development of a constitution are in progress; and whereas, the Dene refer to their homelands as Denedeh, therefore be it resolved that the twenty-sixth Dene National Assembly supports that name of the territory be Denedeh.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of resolution number 3 from the Deh Cho First Nations Fourth Annual General Assembly that supports Denedeh.

MR. KAKFWI:

Point of order.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Your point of order, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

The member from Hay River does not have any particular status to table motions from resolutions that originates in other peoples constituencies. And so I suggest that she defer on tabling those motions that more properly should be and can be tabled by the respective MLA's in the proper constituencies. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Kakfwi you do not have a point of order. A member can table any documents as long as he or she makes a brief statement about the documents.

MR. KAKFWI:

Point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi, your point of privilege.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

I believe that my right as an elected representative of the people of Sahtu would be infringed upon by the

Member, I think, suggesting very strongly that she will be

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tabling motions and petitions that originate from my constituency that properly are my duty and responsibility to do with as their elected representative. Thank you.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. On the point of privilege, I will allow the Members to comment on the point of privilege itself. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The documents that I am tabling here today, I felt responsible to table because they were addressed to me. And more specifically asked the Member specifically asked me to table them. In the case of the NWT Woman's Association, they approached me directly and personally asked me to table that document. I agreed to do so on their behalf.

With respect to the one from the Dene National Assembly, that one was also specifically addressed to me with a request to take note of that. The third one that I wanted to table that I have not tabled yet was signed by the motion, the resolution was seconded by a constituent who is in my riding. And the mover is in fact a constituent of the Speaker's riding. So I will either defer this table to someone else or proceed at the Speaker's decision.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you. Debate on the point of privilege. Thank you. I will reserve my decision after I advise the Clerk and am a lot more clear about the point of privilege.

I would ask the Member from Hay River if she would hold on tabling the document until I make a decision on the point of privilege.

Tabling of documents, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with section 190(3) of the Elections Act, I wish to table notification, Tabled Document 73-13(3), to the Legislative Assembly that a petition has been brought under subsection 1871 of

the Election Contesting of the Elections Act contesting the election in the electoral district of Thebacha.

Petition No. 10 presented by Mr. Ootes and responded to by the Minister responsible for the Workers Compensation Board on the transfer of Occupational Health and Safety Services to the Workers Compensation Board.

Response to Petition No. 11 presented by Mr. Ootes and responded to by the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board on the transfer of Occupational Health and Safety Services to the Workers Compensation Board.

Response to Petition No. 13 presented by Mr. Barnabas and responded to by the Minister of Safety and Public Services concerning a plebiscite on liquor control in Resolute Bay.

Response to Petition No. 14 presented by Mr. Erasmus and responded to by the Minister responsible for the Workers Compensation Board on the transfer of Occupational Health and Safety Services to the Workers Compensation Board.

Response to Petition No. 29 presented by Mr. Enuaraq and responded to by the Chairman of the Financial Management Board on the opposition to wage and benefit reductions.

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Response to Petition No. 30 presented by Mr. Enuaraq and responded to by the Chairman of the Financial Management Board on the opposition to reduction of benefits as outlined in the collective agreement.

Response to Petition No. 45 presented by Mr. Arlooktoo and responded to by the Chairman of the Financial Management Board concerning an act to amend the Public Service Act.

Response to Petition No. 48 presented by the people of Baker Lake and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on the replacement of existing and unsafe Nunavut Arctic College building.

Response to Petition No. 49 presented by Mr. Ootes and responded to by the Minister of Health and Social Services concerning the community wellness youth programs.

Response to Petition No. 50 presented by Mr. Erasmus and responded to by the Minister of Health and Social Services concerning the community wellness youth programs.

Response to Petition No. 53 presented by Mr. Henry and responded to by the Minister of Health and Social Services concerning the community wellness youth programs.

Response to Petition No. 54 presented by Mr. Henry and responded to by the Minister of Health and Social Services concerning the community wellness youth programs.

Response to Petition No. 55 presented by Mr. Erasmus and responded to by the Minister of Health and Social Services concerning the community wellness youth programs.

Response to Petition No. 56 presented by Mr. Ootes and responded to by the Minister of Health and Social Services concerning the community wellness youth programs.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Notices of motion. Mr. O'Brien.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday October 4, 1996 I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that Tabled Document 68-13(3) entitled Changes to the 1996/97 Capital Plan be moved into the committee of the whole today for discussion. Mr. Speaker at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you. Notices of motion. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Motions. Mr. O'Brien.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to move my Motion 15-13(3) that I gave notice of today.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

The member for Kivallivik is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Do we have any nays. There are no nays, you have unanimous consent Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that Tabled Document 68-13(3) entitled changes to the 1996/97 Capital Plan be moved to the committee of the whole today for discussion.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien, your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried.

Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. First reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Second reading of bills.

Item 19, consideration of committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Tabled Document 1-13(3), Tabled Document 68-13(3) and Minister's Statement 82-13(3) with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

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

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to call the committee of the whole back to order. We have 3 items, Tabled Document 1-13(3), Report of the Commission on the MLA Compensation, Tabled Document 68-13(3), and Minister's Statement 82-13(3). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Chairman, could I suggest we deal with the changes to the 1996/97 Capital Plan, Tabled Document 68- 13(3).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, honourable Member. I just had a recommendation we deal with Tabled Document 68-13(3). Do we have the concurrence of the

committee? Agreed. We will take a short break, 15 minutes and come back here. Thank you.

--- SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to call the committee back to order. We are dealing with Tabled Document 68-13(3), Changes to the Capital Plan. We are in general comments, Mr. Ootes

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can make some comments on this, to put it into perspective. The concern is the changes...

AN HON. MEMBER:

...that we entered this process trying to be a cooperative as possible and I think we should maintain that spirit as much as possible and that...

MR. OOTES:

...the concern is the changes to the capital funds and this was the subject of concern by a number of members. It was discussed by members of various standing committees and the concern relates around the fact that there have been changes and transfers made in the capital budget as passed by members of the legislative assembly in the spring session.

The areas of concern are in several areas and the members will speak further on them, for example in the Department of Transport some two million dollars was changed and there were specific items such as in Cambridge Bay a Tembind application was put on the airport for \$135,000, which was a new project. In Fort Simpson access paving was done for \$650,000, which was a new project. Gjoa Haven, overlay of runway and taxi apron. The next change in that particular project was increased by \$288,000. In Hay River there was a rehabilitate the runway, and that was changed by an additional \$300,000. In Resolute Bay the air terminal building which was a project initially for \$1,135,000, \$633,000 was taken away. Various monies were put into a culvert replacement program and then the highway system in Highway 1B, Kilometre 84 to 136, \$800,000 was taken out of that particular allocation. Highway 3A, Kilometre 0 to 154, \$606,000 was transferred to Highway 3B, Kilometre 154 to 243.

The transfer of the dollars were in some cases to new projects which were apparently not in the five year plan and the members are concerned that the changes were done without consultation of the members of those particular constituencies and in some cases members were not aware of the changes being imposed. So that, Mr. Chairman, is a brief rundown of the issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes...are there general comments from the members of the committee of the whole or any further general comments? Yes, Mr. Roland, thank you.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I look at this issue I have concern that through our committee process we have looked at, in order of importance, a lot of the projects that came through our committees and we have deferred others in that process and my concern comes from, in the order of importance we have deferred other projects in some settlements and after that things are altered or changed for whatever reasons but I grow concerned with the process and is this five year capital plan process, is it a system that we should indeed continue with if changes like this can happen from time to time?

This is something we need to address, however we address that it is a duty of ourselves as an assembly. But there needs to be some sort of a process or bringing together of everything that has happened here so that we can clarify it because we have the budget coming up, it is the last one we can have an impact, and the following one becomes a caretaker one because that is going to be moving into the new government. I think we need to seriously look at the considerations that is before us and address it as a way the people of the communities and the public that we serve would see fit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr.

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Roland, I have Mr. Krutko and Mr. O'Brien...Mr. Krutko?

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Chairman, yes, the point I want to make is that we all got into office knowing that there were going to be major cuts, that there were going to be major problems when it came to revenues to be able to do things, that in some cases we are not going to be able to carry some things out.

We are talking about trying to find an order here that everybody has to feel a little bit of the hurt that is going to come along with these cuts in regards to ridings, employees of this government, ourselves as MLA's, cuts in regards to the wages of our civil servants and also a new way of doing government. We have all come in here with the intentions of this as a new order of government, we were going to be fair, we would deal with this problem with the deficit, all together, united, but from what I see and what we have been telling our constituents when we go home is that, "oh, it's just going to be there for a short time, sorry you can't have these projects, you will have to hold up, until we are able to get out of this problem of the deficit and try to get back onto the road to recovery."

But on the other hand what we see here is that for some regions, such as my region, which my unemployment rates are almost double the national average and also in regards to projects. One of my ridings, Aklavik, received \$300,000 in capital, yet with the decision by FMB, or Cabinet, or whoever, projects can be moved around by simple decision within that House, yet ourselves as members of this House, we went through a long process of reviewing the projects, cutting projects out, saying we had to cut ten here, in some cases fifteen percent, in all the different envelopes to come up with something that we can all live with. But to be fair to the general public that we represent we made an attempt to state that we are going to do things differently.

The common way of doing government is over. Reality is in front of us, we have a deficit, yet from these projects having funds moved around, projects added to the budget after it has been passed, is not what we are telling the government, it is not going to happen. Yet the public out there, and the people we are cutting, especially the elders, the old folks homes in regards to fuel subsidies and all these others things that affect the peoples lives, day-to-day, and yet we still do this, makes we wonder, realistically are we here to the benefit of the people we represent in our constituencies, depends what riding you are in, but I think we have to find a new order of doing government here and realize it, that the number one priority of this government and this House is dealing

with the deficit. If there are monies which are not spent, they go back to bring down the deficit, not just say, "Well, there's money there, let's spend it". We cannot afford to spend like we use to, I think that is the message we have to put out to the public.

We cannot afford to continue to carry on the way the previous government has, or the previous executive has, because reality is we are saying one thing to our people and we are doing another thing in this House. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We are dealing with the changes to the capital plan of the government. We have Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Picco...Mr. O'Brien?

MR. O'BRIEN:

I am one of the unfortunate victims of this, what I would consider manipulation of the capital budget after the fact, where I lost, approximately three-quarters of a million dollars, for a health centre in Arviat, and I have thought a lot about this situation over the past few months and I realize that the money was moved and what further annoyed me was that it was moved without any consultation with myself, or the Hamlet of Arviat, and I strongly believe that this transfer or movement of funds from the capital budget, and the way it was done violates the basic fundamental principles of consensus government.

I think that when we get down to that point it makes myself and the residents of my community question consensus government. It is very embarrassing and it is very disturbing and disappointing when you inform your constituency that, yes, there is \$800,000 in the capital budget to retrofit your 35 year old health centre and to find out on the street that the money has been moved from that project into another region, and,

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again, I stress without any consultation.

I think that the bottom line here is that this practice is unacceptable, it has to stop. I think the only way we have to do that is to introduce some kind of a mechanism, a motion, or policy that once the capital budget is struck, approved in this House, that it is not to be altered, moved, or deleted by a minister without the concurrence and the approval of the MLA's.

I do not think that the capital budget should be used in any way, shape, or form, to hamper the member from making statements in the House regarding the governments actions or policies and I think it is unacceptable that a member would have to feel that he may suffer reprisals if he were to make certain statements, or contradict, or question some of the policies of this government. I strongly believe that we do have to put something in place to guarantee that this does not happen again. I for one, would have a difficult time if somebody says to me, do not worry about it, it will not happen again. I think we need to put some teeth in this to ensure that it does not. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Honourable Member. Members wanting to speak, we have Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Picco, and Mr. Todd. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have, in regards to this issue and the package provided by Mr. Todd, with the changes, and deferrals and new projects, I have two basic concerns. One is a more general process-related one that ties into some earlier comments, about how do we tie MLAs into this process? When, as it has been indicated, we work for hundreds of hours doing the main estimates and the capital plan, and find out that there has been changes. In this case, I think without exception, after the fact, and probably with no consultation. That is an issue of concern, and it begs the question of how important is the capital planning process? And if we want to make it relevant, I think we have to try to address that issue.

I have a more specific concern, as well, related to a couple of items that stand out very clearly to me, in my mind, that are in the Member from Nahendeh's riding. That is the issue of being able to have approval from FMB, and the ministerial okay, to put in new projects that are not even on the capital plan. I have two questions, specifically in that regard. I have a question, and I remember the Member very clearly advocating long and hard for his access road, and the importance of that, to find out that lo and behold, it has been turned into a rec complex, or community centre. When in fact, as a group of MLAs, through government auspices, we indicated that priorities should be focused on primary facilities, health centres, primary roads, schools, and those kinds of things.

I also have concerns about the specific project, a paving project for \$650,000 that was new money. It was not in the capital plan, as far as I am aware. Once again, I am assuming with FMB approval, and it raises the question of, is that acceptable? Can every MLA in fact make those kinds of major changes, is that a latitude or privilege only for Ministers? If it is, then I have a problem with that. If we are going to open it up, and we want to change the rules, then I think we should do that so that it is on the table for everybody. If people can, basically, take the money that is designated for their constituencies and do what they will with it, then we are moving into a per capita funding kind of basis. So I have some questions that I would like the Minister of Transportation, and probably the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, and the Premier, to clarify for me in terms of, with this new government, new way of doing business, things are open and above board, and we are working together, how we can, approve or sanction those kinds of new projects, when nobody else has had that latitude, that I am

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aware? It is to the tune of a million dollars or so.

It also speaks to the issue of rules by Mr. Krutko, about if there is extra money, where should it go? Does it go back to the deficit, should it go back into the capital planning process? Once again, what latitude do Ministers have, and are they, in fact, in a privileged situation, and they can do things that no other member has access to? As we progress through this discussion, those are specific concerns I have, the process ones, the two specific ones that stand out very clearly, that I just talked about. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. There were several questions from Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Todd's turn will come after Mr. Picco. I have Mr. Picco. I have Mr. Picco, Mr. Todd, and Mr. Steen. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, over the past couple of weeks we have had chances in the committees, as MLAs, to review the adjustments to the 1996-97 Capital Budget. It has caused some areas of concern. The money and slippage if a project has been deferred or cancelled, or a deferred or cancelled project. My understanding would be that

that money would go back into our deficit reduction strategy. It is very hard, and it is not palatable for me to be able to sit here and talk about cuts and reductions, and senior citizens subsidy cuts, when I see a million dollars being re-directed to a rec centre, when, for example, in my case, mine was cut last year. That is unacceptable.

Our basic concerns should be for the primary facilities of the Northwest Territories and those infrastructures that keep health, mind, soul and body together. I do not think a rec centre fits into that category. The whole idea of this concept was we had an open government, an open policy in the last eleven months. The door came down between the Cabinet and the Executive. And with the new committee structure, the ordinary MLAs would have a better opportunity to have a say and input into the decision-making process. As Mr. Krutko and Mr. Miltenberger have articulated earlier, this new process seems to be somewhat lacking at the present time. I, too, will be asking some questions to the appropriate Ministers on why, if and when, this has happened, and is it going to happen again in the future. Because if it is, then the S.S. Titanic is going down and we are re-arranging deck chairs. It is not acceptable. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On behalf of the Cabinet, we have Mr. Todd. Mr. Steen, sorry.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have concerns as well with this government's ability to shift money around after the budget was approved. But I am not sure that it is not required in order for the government to operate properly. I think we discussed quite a while ago, over the past winter, that we would allow managers to manage. I believe that we are seeing an example of that to some degree. Some people would approve of it, some will not.

I do not mind to say that at this point in time, that one of my communities benefited from further money being put into the project. But I am sure that if you listen to the justification for it, you would agree it makes sense. I do question, like Mr. Miltenberger again, a million dollars that was moved down in Fort Simpson. But again, I think that we are here and understanding that that was partly federal dollars, it might have had something to do with it. I believe that we will hear from the government, justifications for

what they have done. I hear from some MLAs that they suggested once the budget is approved, it should not be able to be spent otherwise without Member's consent. But if it took all the members to agree to the budget, where does one Member get the right to agree to amend it?

The whole argument comes back to if the Ministers can not do it, why would the Ministers plus one MLA have a right to do it?

I can go along with the government being required to, at least, contact the communities being affected, and the MLA that is being affected, to discuss what impact this would actually have on the community, if the project was completely killed, and the funds put towards the deficit.

I hear many MLAs over the past few weeks saying that there are not enough capital dollars being spent already. We need more capital

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dollars. We need economic opportunities in our communities. I think that if the government totally removed the capital dollars from the community because the project was delayed, it could not go ahead for the sea lift, whatever the reason is.

I am sure the community would like to see that money spent on another project, if possible, rather than put towards the deficit. I believe that we all agreed that this is what we could afford to put towards the deficit. We already did. Putting more towards the deficit, simply because the project did not get going might not be a smart idea, considering the amount of economic opportunities our communities have.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, I would say that I suppose when my communities get cut, I will not be very happy about it. But at the same time, I am of the opinion that we must let managers manage. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We have Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I heard about this, as well, I did not hear directly from the Minister, but I heard from another staff member what, especially for the \$633,000 that was taken out from Resolute Bay airport.

I feel that since we already approved the budget, and we all got together and worked on it together, and we all believed that this was going to happen. I know that this has been delayed, but I feel that since we do have a deficit, and we all know that we have to work to get rid of the deficit, but I was quite concerned about this. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Erasmus. Thank you.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, have similar concerns. I understand that Ministers have to be allowed to manage the departments. I also know that we are trying to balance the budget, and the Finance Minister has asked the Ministers to see where they can trim more dollars from their budgets. But at the same time, we did spend a long time last session working out the capital budget. I think that simple courtesy at least should dictate that when capital items are deferred or totally deleted, they should be done with input from the affected MLA, and the communities.

At the same time, I think that if a community changes its priorities, then perhaps that community, along with its MLA should be able to talk to the Minister involved, and see if perhaps, the money should be able to be spent on another project. If the community feels that it is a greater priority than what is being proposed, but that should be available to everybody. If we agreed to do that type of thing, we also have to agree that we are not going to be indicating that some things are for safety, or for some other prime concern, and then all of a sudden, once you get to money allocated, then, change your mind.

One of the things I think that is not clear, is how the Ministers arrive at how these capital items are awarded to the various communities. Do each of the Ministers do their capital budgets in total isolation? Do they just say, there is this many communities, and 15 of them have community halls, and these ones do not, so we will give the community halls over here? Or do they look at the primary building facilities? If every Minister has their own budget and they allocate it the way they want, then some communities might not even have a health centre, but yet they might be awarded a community hall, or an arena. Those are the things I think we have to look at.

I know other Members have already brought it up that we entered this process trying to be as co-operative as possible but capital plans are changed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, general comment. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, I would just like to say that right now I do not really have any concerns within my communities but I do feel that the other MLAs do have concerns on the issues that we are talking about. Maybe, I am wrong but I feel that I know that like these capital should be approved by all of the MLAs because we go through them all maybe somebody will explain to me, do we have authority as members of the Legislative

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Assembly especially for the, like the mayors do have authority within the west, like the mayor was able to ask for some funding, for example, maybe the money was taken from Barnabas' community and went to another town or community. I feel the people from the High Arctic should have been proud of their decision making in that part.

For example, for the transportation, for airports, the airports are under the territorial government as I understood, but know I have heard that they are under the federal government. Maybe I do not understand this correctly but I feel this is what I wanted to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

General comment, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, have concerns about what has transpired. I was one of the ones that helped approve the budget in the spring session, and I was under the impression that that budget was allocated to specific projects in specific areas in specific constituencies; and there was a semblance of fairness associated with that at the time.

I later find out that funds have been moved from one project to another, from one constituency to another and what is more embarrassing, believe me, if it was my constituency, you would hear about it and you

would hear loudly about it, because do not do that to me. That is my attitude, now it is happening to other members here, but by heavens I would certainly speak up very, very loudly. Louder than I would right now. I think that is what is at stake here.

So, I think the problem that we have here is members who are not consulted when it comes to changing money from one constituency to another. Members were embarrassed by the fact that this money was moved.

I cannot believe that in one case in a constituency it was moved in for two projects, the member did not know about that. Now that is extremely embarrassing for the member. It is not only embarrassing, but what do his constituents feel about that particular member - he did not know about it. So, I think that we have a problem here in communication or in process. If the managers have to manage and if they need that right to do so, then fine, but I think they have the obligation and the responsibility as a manager to communicate with the member that is being affected. Now, I think what I would like to possibly do, there are a number of areas here that, no doubt, there are a lot of questions on, and I would like to pose some questions in specific areas. Other members may have questions in those specific areas as well.

For example I would like to know the justification for the expenditure of the Cambridge Bay Tembind application and the airport. Was this in the five year capital plan and what is the justification for that particular project? And I would like to have some answers on that, perhaps some other questions as well, but that may be my first question Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments, we are considering changes to the capital plan of this government. Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I have some comments to make in regards to this issue on capital expenditures. I did not actually understand some of the, may be this is because of my misunderstanding, what has transpired this summer. I have travelled throughout my constituency as well as outside of Canada. Maybe, because of the fact that I was travelling, that is why I was not aware of what had transpired, in Pangnirtung and also in Broughton Island.

I always try to visit them whenever possible and when I went to Broughton Island I was told by the Hamlet Manager in Broughton Island, the airport at Broughton Island had been postponed, the airport that was going to be made. Being MLA for that region, when I went to visit them that was the only time I was told what had transpired and what had been planned for the coming summer. For people who we represent, we have to represent them in this House and I do believe when we have our constituents to represent and have to live by the rules of the law in thinking of everything that has transpired in the Northwest Territories, what my colleague, Mr. Ootes had stated earlier, I believe that he had stated when we are going to be some of the

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capital expenditures are going to be taken out then maybe the Minister should consult with us as MLAs as well as the hamlet and some of the bodies that are responsible for the maintenance for the communities.

If the other people in any of the other communities do require this particular capital expenditure that is going to be taken away from our constituency then we should be consulted. There are more important issues as well in the Northwest Territories, even if it is a small community, even if the population is not as great, they will be treated equally and fairly. That is what we were told last year and that is what I believe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Now ordinary members, on the process and directive of the government perhaps it is the appropriate time to ask if any of the Ministers, members of the Cabinet, would like to attempt to answer some of the questions. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is important to try to put the debate into some perspective and to deal historically with where we were and where we are at. I think you know, the reality is that somebody alluded to should we do schools versus arenas or arenas or something else. The reality is up until last year, that this Legislature since 1968 had the capacity to meet most, if not all of the needs of the constituents.

Similarly the growing needs of it. Whether it was in schools, whether it was in arenas, whether it was in infrastructure required in these communities.

But as I have said many times, the rules of engagement change dramatically with the fact that our former financing agreement was reduced close to sixty million dollars and there was some additional reductions because the way in which our revenues were calculated with the Conference Board of Canada.

So it would be fair to say that while we all enjoyed the luxury over the last twenty, twenty-five years, we have been able to get, I would think pretty well everything we wanted, that simply is not the case in 1996/97. I think it is also important to point out that we managed together an agreement, we reached an agreement, where we determined our deficit elimination strategy would include some capital, and if my memory serves me correct I think it something in the region of about thirty million dollars. Mr. Steen alluded to that earlier I believe.

Now, historically the capital budget has been somewhere in the region of about a hundred and eighty, a hundred and eighty five million dollars, somewhere in there. I believe it is now down to about a hundred and forty five million because of changes that we have had to make, I repeat, had to make, because of the reduction in our form of finance.

I do not think there is any doubt, in the last debate, that there is a requirement, particularly right now, to prioritize and I remember Mr. Krutko talking about the need for a priority in his water and sewer and I do not think anybody is disputing that, you know, nobody is disputing that. In these difficult times when you cannot accommodate everybody's concerns you have to take a look at where we are going to spend our money and the reasons for doing it and what the priorities are.

I am a bit concerned where the discussion is going because I think it is somewhat too general. To make a comment that the whole capital budget is in a state of disarray, that seems to be implied, and I will have to check Hansard tomorrow, is absolutely inaccurate, first of all.

I think it is incumbent upon you, as members, to address the individual issues that you have to Ministers and ask them why they did what they did, but you cannot make a general statement saying that we are in complete disarray. It is just nonsense.

If Mr. O'Brien has a concern about his nursing station in Arviat versus it going to Gjoa Haven, he should address that question in the House with the Minister

responsible. I am sure the Minister made that decision. I cannot speak for him based on illogical argument. That debate should take place. If there is some concern about the Transportation budget, then debate that with the Minister. That is not a problem.

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That is what politics is all about. But I think we need to be a little more specific here around these generalizations that I think have been made up. We will have to double check Hansard.

You simply cannot, and I do appreciate Mr. Steen's comment, tie the hands of this government. You cannot tie my hands as the Minister of Finance if you want me to balance the budget. It is like saying every time we make a change we have to check with everybody. In my ??? eyes, that is impossible. I would freely admit that perhaps the communications at the community level with respect to the changing of capital budgets was faulty. I think I would admit that. We take -- I certainly take, as Minister of Finance -- some responsibility for that.

I think clearly, there is a need, if we are going to discuss this issue, when you could debate with respect to specifics, if there is a specific area. If there is some concern out there that there is a sense of unfairness, that the priorities are perhaps not as clear as they should be, then that should be articulated. I want to tell you, and I knew this debate was coming forward, so I took some time to evaluate where the capital monies have been spent over the last 10 years, not over the last two, but over the last 10 years. I am prepared to share that with you at the right time. I think you would be surprised about the discussion of unfairness. I am not going to sit here and debate today whether one constituency got more than the other. I will prove it to you over a ten year period where the money was spent and why it was spent, and I think you will see -- I hope you will see -- where the differences are and the reasons for them. I think that is another important point to look at. You cannot look at a one-year budget and say, "Is this being fair or unfair?" You have to look at what has happened over a period of time because, contrary to popular opinion, previous governments and this government does have a plan.

I think the five-year plans that were in place in previous governments and the five-year plan that is in place in this government were done for a reason and were debated in the House, et cetera, and can continue to be so. But the important issue here is that

the rules of engaging is changed, that there is less money. Being less money it means we are not able to do the kinds of things that we must do. Ministers have to have some flexibility in being able to manage their budgets and manage the projects that they are responsible for. I think it would be fair to say that we

-- we collectively -- if there was a collective role where you disagree with what we are saying, then we have to debate that in the House. You have to provide the management team -- well, it is the bureaucratic level, more like the political level to manage what is going on.

I have heard no discussion, for example, on all the other department. If there is a specific discussion about a specific nursing station, for example, Mr. O'Brien who has talked impassionately about it, then let us debate that. If there is a specific issue and concern about highways or switching of monies, then let us debate that. But you cannot, as we move forward in our second last budget, in my opinion anyway, say that the whole system just simply is not working. That just certainly is not true, in my opinion anyway, as the Minister responsible and trying to finance the money.

The fiscal reality is that there is less money. There is less money in capital, the same as there is less money in O and M. We are all going to have to live with the fact that there is less money there. So if it is a question of prioritizing, and we need some advice direction on that, we are prepared to listen to that. If it is a question of unfairness, be specific. Let us respond to it through debate. If it is a question of where we move from here, we will look for some recommendations and some direction by yourselves. There is a budgetary process in place. While it may not be perfect, and I stress that, it is better than it ever was before and if it requires some modification and some change so you feel a little more comfortable with it, I, as Minister of Finance, am prepared to consider any recommendations you bring forward. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On the list we have Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Picco and Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it is a good thing and that is why we wanted to bring this discussion

into the Committee of the Whole so that, in fact, it would

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be in the House and start fulfilling the obligation the way I feel???? to do more things in public.

I have a very specific question for either the Minister of Finance or the Premier with regard to new projects. Is it an accepted policy, which I am assuming it must since the approvals for new projects were approved by FMB and Cabinet, that Ministers can initiate new projects not on a capital plan in their own ridings and that is going to be condoned and approved by Cabinet? By those actions, is that the standard approach that Cabinet is taking for that kind of new project? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

There is a planning process in place for the capital expenditures that includes the communities. It includes the Ministers. If the Ministers make adjustments after the planning process, it has to have the approval of the FMB which includes ourselves. If there were any specific questions about a specific department, I think it would be better to address that directly to a Minister. The issue of flexibility on the Ministers part, yes, but it has to have FMB approval.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

....the Member for Nahendeh. I would like it clear about the process. You are telling me that Cabinet may approve stuff, but the may not necessarily condone it. Is that what you are telling me? By agreeing to the creation of new projects that are a capital plan, that this is the accepted standard for capital planning for this government? Is that what you are telling me?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do not appreciate the Member putting words in my mouth. I do not think I used that term whatsoever. I said you have to give the management team some flexibility. What happens if there is an emergency? What happens if there is a need for an adjustment? You need that flexibility. That is what I am saying, but it requires the FMB approval or Cabinet approval, depending what the issue is. That is what I said. Nothing else, nothing more.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Premier, did you want to add to what Mr. Todd had stated?

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last Fall, you elected a Cabinet and you elected myself as Premier. You put the trust in us to manage the day-to-day government operations. This capital budget represents approximately \$150 million of a billion dollar budget. We manage this to the best of our capability. Whenever a Minister of this government brings forward, through FMB which I am a member of, a project or a change in project and especially if it has to do with his riding, it doubly scrutinized. We have to make sure that it is not seen, what I am hearing, as pork barrelling. I am hearing that in the undercurrents out there. We make darn sure that it is not that. You have to have the justification for that project. It has to be highest priority in your departmental priority list, and it has to have the reasons to go ahead.

The specific project Mr. Miltenberger is talking about in the Transportation budget, I remember it quite well because it was given extra scrutiny because it involved a Minister of this government. One thing nobody has said is that in that riding, the money that was taken from another project in that riding moved to another project in the same riding, plus more of the money was moved out of their riding to another riding. So the project is justified, the Minister can defend it and we can defend it as a government. We have to do things to manage the day-to-day affairs of this government. It is as simple as that. I had money taken out of my riding as the Premier and Government of the Northwest Territories and moved way up into the Arctic to build a seniors' facility for people that need it. I knew the need there was more so I did not mind losing it. Just like Mr. O'Brien. He had money taken out of his riding because it was less of a priority. The priority was to build a seniors' facility. You have to find the money somewhere and that is how it was done. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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I appreciate the Premier's fine words and I understand there is money taken out of the Member's riding, and I appreciate that. But, at the end of the day, you may not have come any farther ahead. The question is the creation of new project that are not even on the capital plan. The question is that you ask for the right to manage, which I think you should have, but I do not think it should be construed as a blank cheque and when something stands out or an issue comes up, you have to have the latitude to ask about it. I am waiting to be convinced. I have had money taken out of my riding as well for other causes and that is well and good as well.

I am concerned about creating, months after a capital plan is done and approved, new projects that are not even on a capital plan come in. If you are telling me it is okay to move money around in a riding to create new projects that are not in the capital plan, I am more than happy to look at that and how do we build that into the new system so that everybody can have that latitude. If that is what you are telling me, then I think we should let the per capita funding for ridings and we just take the money not bother capital planning because what is the point if you just whip up a bunch of new projects out of your back pocket which you may consider emergencies? I do not think anything on that capital plan that is new is an emergency.

I am just curious. Where was this stuff, and if it was so important, why was it not in the capital plan that was approved two months ahead of time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

The point I am trying to make here -- obviously, I am not making it well enough -- is that may be exceptions around the rules. You cannot say that this has happened right across the board. If there is a specific project that the Member would like to discuss, ask a specific question of a Minister and the Minister will

defend the decision, but you cannot generalize. That is the only point I am trying to make here about some of these concerns. If a Member has a concern about whatever project it is -- I know Mr. O'Brien's concern is with the health centre which we have talked about - then be specific and we will try to endeavour to answer it. Of course, you do have an opportunity during the budget, which will be in January, to give the recommendations, et cetera, on the budget. That is all I am trying to say. I am a bit concerned about generalizations, that is all. We have all had to make adjustment in our thinking when it comes to capital budgets. Everybody has tried to do it in as fair and reasonable way as possible. I understand if a Member or a Minister has had some project moved out of their riding and they are not going to be happy about it. I understand that. But the reality is that there is less money, and somebody has to prioritize these things. That is what we do and we have to defend those decisions. That is what we are here to do. I want to keep this thing specific rather than general. That is what I am saying in this discussion. If there are some specific issues, then I think -- I know -- Ministers are prepared to discuss it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On the list of speakers, we have Mr. Picco, Mr. Krutko and Mr. Henry. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just going back to earlier statements by Minister Todd about the rules of engagement having been changed and he can show me and the rest of the MLAs the capital projects and the budgets for the last 10 years for Mr. ???, but I think the first statement that he made that the rules have changed negates his capital budgets for the last 10 years. Because 10 years ago, nine years ago, eight years ago, one year ago, you are in a different situation. It was the glory days and the Stu Hodgson days when someone could come in and put things where they wanted to. You cannot compare apples and oranges by talking about the rules of engagement. I do not think anyone is questioning the management plan, the management scheme, the management style of the government. I think the questioning here is on specific program.

The capital budget is \$150 million and it is a small part of the billion dollar budget, but the reality is that the total budget of the Northwest Territories is not discretionary dollars. Those dollars have to go into salaries and so on and so forth. One of the few things

an MLA has an opportunity to influence is the capital spending in his riding. That is the point.

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A specific question then to the Minister of Transportation on the project that appeared in the infrastructure committee of which I am chair of was that the \$1055 million for the alternate island access in Fort Simpson was deferred from the original project budget and seemed to be a priority of the Minister. We had no problem with that. All of a sudden I end up looking at my capital plan last week and I see that in actuality it was deferred and cancelled and the money went into a recreation centre. I do not care if it went from a million dollars down to \$600,000. It is the principle and the point of this. It is not the dollar value. I do not care if it was \$100,000. The point being that the amount was changed and it went into a project. Now, Mr. Todd talked about the justification of expenditures and primary facilities. Well, when I see a recreation centre, for example, I cut my million dollar recreation centre last year. I did not jump up and down this year and say, "Put it back on the capital plan." If it was \$600,000 or \$500,000, maybe the Minister can justify why the recreation complex or whatever was done with that "X" number of dollars because all we can go by is what is on the capital budget and the alterations to such. I do not want this big song and dance and history lessons from people over here about what was done in the past and the rules of engagement have changed, and it is based on this capital budget.

I was not here last year and I was not here 10 years ago. I do not care how much money you have spent. My question and direct question Mr. Todd keeps asking, I will question the Minister of Transportation, why was this project deferred? Why was that re-allocated to new project which was not a primary facility and maybe the Chairman of FMBS can tell us why it was such a need to go ahead.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, I believe Mr. Todd. Minister for MACA, Madame Thompson. Yes, Mr. Todd, go ahead.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Chairman, I will go look to Ms. Thompson for response to this specific question I want to remind my honourable colleague you never dwell on history you just learn from it. And I would be only to happy to debate when we talk about fairness where capital

dollars have been spent over a long period of time. That was the point I was trying to make here.

I would be only too happy to debate fairness of capital expenditures. Infrastructure that has been required across the territories. That was the point I was trying to make. Ms. Thompson would probably be able to answer that question because her constituency or her department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On the Recreation Centre for Fort Smith to Fort Simpson, Madame Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. There was a comment made earlier that I want to talk about, a few comments that have made. I will respond to the specific area of concern in a few seconds. One of the MLAs said that Mayor came in to one of the Ministers offices and requested to take capital dollars one of the MLAs budget and that happened. I do not know which Mayor that was. I think it would be a good idea, since I deal with all the Mayors, to know which Mayor this was. And there is a process already in place. We do not just move capital dollars to here and there just like, you know, without any process. There are some skills in the department to deal with those issues.

Another comment that was made I know it was in regards to me when I was talking about the water sewage problems. There was a comment I had made earlier in the spring about that each community should, if it is a community and because they are human beings, we should give them a water sewage facility to have a healthy environment. That did not mean that if it is a small community of 60 people or 100 people that community should get a high school or a hospital.

I was just talking in regards to water and sewage when I said that small communities should have these too. So that is a statement I wanted to clear up.

In regards to the funds in Fort Simpson, funds were voted in the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs capital plan for the Fort Simpson alternate island access project. It started back in 1995/96. They were voted in. And because of local disagreement over the

project this caused the village to reexamine its priorities.

Because I am the Minister of Community Empowerment, one of my priorities is that local bodies in the communities learn to work together and if they can learn to work together, for instance, in this community the Band Council, the Metis Nation and the village Council had to get a body together and tell me what their priorities were.

The village had to reexamine the issue for the alternate island access project because when they started to talk about this if you have been to Fort Simpson they are on an island. There is a road going into the island.

The community felt at that time, if there was an emergency or if there was a flood, they would not be able to go through the only road out to the mainland. So they thought there should be an access road on the other side of the island. Because the Metis and the Band Council were not involved in that discussion, there was local disagreement into that, like that was really the priority of the community.

So, that was started in 1995 before I was Minister of this department. When I came into the picture, I had to try to get the community to work together. So I told them that if they can become one body, the Metis Association, the Band Council and the village, try to work together and tell me what they wanted to do with this money that voted in 1995 and I would give it to them.

Because I felt since I am the Minister of Community Empowerment one of the issues is that I want a well community. And that people should learn to work together. So they came together and became a tripartite working group and told me that the access road to the mainland that the village had wanted was no longer a priority. But that because they had started developing towards on the mainland instead called the Wild Rose subdivision. They said that, because they wanted to have a community so that they can get together more often because there is three different groups and have a bigger centre. And that the village would contribute towards this project and operation and maintenance costs associated with the facility.

I agreed to that since they were working together as a group for the benefit of the community, that they should use this money for the recreation centre which was a community centre. And that is where that was.

I think it was a good decision on my part. Because with community empowerment we have to get the band councils, the village councils, the Metis councils together to form a group and we have to be willing to work with them. And that was their priority for the community to have a wellness centre. And this is what happened.

This was already voted in 1995/96. It was not something that just happened out of the blue because the MLA came to me. It is because I was working with the community for community wellness and community empowerment.

In the west as you know it is more complex than in the east. We do not have band councils in the east. We do not have Metis so it is a lot easier to get the community to work together. But we still have to get the housing associations and the different department to work together in our communities. And in the east the departments can get together in the community and tell me this is their priority. To promote community empowerment and community wellness in that community I will do my best to meet their needs.

One of my priorities in the west is that these groups will have to work together and tell me what their priorities are and I will do the best I can to meet that need. I did not take that money from somebody's riding to put it into this riding or to that community. It was voted in before I was the Minister. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. My list is growing. We have Mr. Picco, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Henry, Mr. Roland, Mr. Barnabas, Mr. Enuaraq and Mr. Antoine.

I would like to remind any of the members to try to be specific in order to make any of the Ministers to understand and answer the questions try to be specific as possible.

Mr. Picco.

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MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate getting the history of the project. I understand there is an arena and a community complex already in Simpson. I just could not understand how a priority access road could be converted to a community centre. I guess my question still stands so I will see how it happens and I

will defer it to one of my other colleagues to ask some questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is to the Minister of Finance in regards to fairness and how money is allocated.

You did a study based over the last 10 years. I did some research myself based on 9 years and I have come up with some numbers which sort of baffle my constituency when you come to fairness and money spent in different ridings over the last 9 years on projects.

My average based on a per capita spending based on the same ridings and the same size communities works out to about \$1,200.00 per person. The next closest riding which is Nunakput which is \$2,300.00 per person is almost twice as much as what I arrived which is a similar size region.

And then from there basically it goes up. So I think you talk about fairness and the amount of money that is being spent over the years, I mean it is based on my capital dollars over the last nine years, it works out to about two million dollars average out of my three communities yet the next closest community is Nunakput with 3.8 million.

So, I mean, there definitely is not a balance there. There has to be more of a fairness. You talk about fairness and be able to move stuff around. I mean, the Minister was in my riding where there was that construction of a new garage in which there was allocated \$600,000.00 at the end of the day the department made a decision, well, we will give you \$50,000.00 to upgrade the old facilities you have.

But that was taken out of their capital planning expenditures, yet they are still arguing with the department what happened. Yet something like this happens, it seems like you talk about community empowerment and also the whole question about communities want to take on more powers.

In my riding, my communities are saying there is no way we are taking over that because there is nothing there for us. Or basically the till is empty and there is no money in it. So why should we take over something that does not make economic sense for us

to run on the resources we are getting, which is nothing.

So, how can you talk about community empowerment and how great it is for everybody yet in my riding, in the case of Aklavik, they get \$300,000.00 a year to run a community of over 800 people. They do not even have money to fix their potholes to get gravel.

So I think you talk about fairness, you talk about balancing, trying to deal with everybody on an equal platform, use my riding for an example. Because I am at the bottom of the barrel, and if I got any deeper I will be hitting bottom.

When we talk about fairness here, let us look at all the constituencies and let us look at the numbers, and speak what they want. I would like to see the Minister of Finance's statistics. The whole idea of capital dollars and how they are moved around, there has to be some sort of a process that it has to follow in order to meet the expectations of not only the Ministers or the MLAs but also this House, so that they are not stuck in a situation that we are in now.

I think we have to somehow either develop guidelines, or I think because of the problem we are in, dealing with the deficit, that there has to be some direction from the Minister of Finance to all departments that there has to be a mechanism that either these dollars which are not ear-marked for particular projects cannot be moved around for other projects that are not associated with that type of activity. With that I would just like to remind the other Members here that I would like the Minister of Finance's statements, when he talks about fairness, because I sure as heck would like to be fairly treated like everyone else.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I have to remind the ordinary Members to be specific as possible. Now I would like to remind the Ministers to try and refrain from long history, and try to be direct as possible. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes. I should clarify my comments on fairness. I was mainly addressing that to Mr. Picco, and questioning the fairness, not suggesting that it was. So I think that is important to say that. I think it would be fair to say that in some of the work that we have done, that some communities have benefited more than others. It would be fair to say that under the old system, the

one prior to this time, that where there was ample moneys, that perhaps that old saying, the squeaky wheel may have got the grease.

But under the previous regime, where Ms. Cournoyea was the Premier, she instituted a system which I believed and the new Premier followed up with it, was more fair than it was before. And that was discussions with the communities to determine the priorities, to bring them forward, this is under the old previous government, to bring them forward to cabinet. Some effort was made to have an organized plan to do certain things.

Under the new system, which was brought in this year, with this Assembly, the committee structure was brought forward, and I believe there was a genuine, and is a genuine attempt to involve more of the MLAs in the process of trying to allocate capital dollars.

In any situation like this, I am going to say again, that the reality is that with less dollars, we can do less. And by doing less in a time of restraint, not everybody is going to be happy all the time. I guess that is the only way I can answer this.

Mr. Krutko's comments about trying to put a mechanism in place that protects, if you want, where capital dollars are allocated, and reduces the flexibility, if you want, of Ministers right now, I am prepared to look at that. I cannot answer that today. Certainly, we would be prepared to look at that. Again, I am a little concerned that we need to ensure that Ministers have got maximum flexibility to meet the targets that we have set for the coming year, and have a plan in place for the following year. Because I want to remind everybody, it is 30 months away from Division. Whatever we do now will more than likely be inherited by the two new governments. I will take Mr. Krutko's comments under consideration. I will have to talk to the department, I will have to talk to my colleagues in the FMB and the cabinet, and see what, if anything we can do to address some of the issues he has raised. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We have Mr. Krutko, are you okay for now? I have Mr. Henry. Thank you.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I was of the understanding that this part of the agenda was for opening comments. I believe when the Members came to this

House eleven months ago, there was much talk about things being different, and a new way of doing business. I believe what the government are hearing today, is a disappointment on the ordinary Member's point of view, of how a couple of items have been handled.

I think it is fair to say that, for clarification purposes, that we are talking about a couple of items, and if Mr. Todd needs that assurances that it is not widespread, I would suggest to him, at this particular instance, discussion is centred around two particular topics.

I believe that there was an explanation given earlier to Members that moving of capital in projects and in communities in the past, was a standard, run of the mill situation. I think, along with other Members, felt there was going to be new things done, and a new way of doing business. I think that is where much of the frustration is coming from. I accept Minister Todd's comments that potentially, things could have been done a little different in the community.

Much as I congratulate him for those comments, I do believe that we do need some additional formalization as he as alluded to. I believe I would certainly be very disappointed and offended if there was projects allocated to my community, and they were approved in a budget. Certainly I believed without a doubt, that thing was finished with. We talk about managers being

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allowed to manage. I also believe that that is very important.

But I would remind the government that they are a body of politicians, and I would be hoping that they would be taking advice from their managers, the people with the expertise. I would be kind of disappointed, Mr. Chairman, if managers within this government recommended to the politicians and the cabinet that a project that was not even on the five-year capital plan, notably, the project in Fort Simpson, if they recommended that something like that should go ahead. I believe this was a political decision, and I believe the Minister should be given an opportunity to respond to that.

On the question of the paving of some roads, we have listened to the Premier of this government, on a number of occasions, talking about being open for business, and so forth. There was anticipation, and there still is, that there will be much use of the

highway from the Alberta border north to development such as BHP project. I believe that one of the main criteria used by the department in looking at road construction or road resurfacing, or refurbishing, would be the amount of use. Now, if this government is saying that we are open for business, and we are supporting these projects as long as the benefits stay in the north, I would say that was kind of short-sighted. If we are fixing roads that at this particular time will not bring as much financial benefit and jobs to the north that are needed. I believe there has been some explanations given, and I would suggest that something to move this along would be if Ministers were given additional time to respond to the comments made here today, it may clarify many additional things. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to recognize Mr. Antoine. You are on the list here. I am wondering if you want to speak about your constituency, or do you want to speak as a Minister. You have the microphone, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak as the Minister of Transportation, and I really want to speak as a MLA for Nahendeh, but I protect my constituency like everybody else does. I want to speak as the Minister of Transportation.

Listening to the debate here, the concern here is that there was \$650,000, a new project to the Fort Simpson access, paving. That is what the Member is having a problem with in the Department of Transportation. So let us address it. The Department of Transportation in the other parts of this document here, Changes to the Capital Plan, aside from this, I will speak on the \$650,000 later on.

Aside from that, all the other changes are normal practice. I think I hear what the Members are saying. This is a new process that we all started on about ten months ago. I agree. Yes, we are doing something different. On this side, it is something different, we have to learn as we go along. The process here is still evolving. And I agree that, yes, there should be some sort of way, that whenever changes are made, that the ordinary Members get notified. I agree that perhaps like the Finance Minister said, there is a fault in this whole process. I think that is what it is. We have to communicate more. I think that if the changes were made, if you understand them, if you get it

explained very carefully, then you would understand the reasoning behind all these things. As Ministers we are busy doing a lot of other things too. We are not only concentrating on shifting money. We are concentrating on doing a heck of a lot more.

As the Department of Transportation, we are responsible for about 2,200 kilometres of road, 52 airports, we are doing access roads, we are doing wharfs, we are doing a heck of a lot more. This is just a very small part of the whole operation. The way money got shifted around from one project to another, the experts are telling me that it is a normal practice of doing business. There are some business people that are here. They know that sometimes you have to make decisions. If you have to check with every person in the whole system, before you make a move, sometimes you have to make a move. But I agree that the MLAs should be informed that whenever there are changes made, then they should be notified. Perhaps that is the faultiness in this whole system.

I think there was a specific question asked by Mr. Ootes, in regards to the Tembind process that was going on into Cambridge Bay. There was a small amount that was moved into

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that area. I just want to say that this \$135,000 that is there identified as a new project. Ninety of it came from the Kugluktuk airport upgrading, and 45 came from the Resolute Bay airport terminal building. This particular Tembind is a chemical that has a binding property in there that binds the material on the gravel surface airstrip. These loose stones, if they are not combined, cause a lot of damage to the aircraft's undercarriage and engines. As a result of that, this application of Tembind is a pilot project for the product at the Cambridge Bay airport where they have scheduled jet service. This application will allow the department to evaluate the product's dust suppression characteristics and its ability to enhance the binding characteristics of the crushed material.

I just wanted to further add that our original plan was to apply this Tembind to the Kugluktuk air side surfaces as part of the rehabilitation work that is currently underway. With NWT Air cancelling their jet service to Kugluktuk, effective May 31, 1993, the department would like to move this Tembind product to Cambridge Bay. The reasons we would like to change side is that we can test this product at an airport which is currently receiving jet service, to see if it is feasible here. We have a test site of the Tembind

at the airport serviced by the turbo prop aircraft at Arviat as well. I think this answers the specific question that Mr. Ootes was asking, is that, the airport upgrading in Kugluktuk lost \$90,000. We moved it to Cambridge Bay, and we put in some \$45,000 from the Resolute airport terminal building, to make it \$135,000. This is to test this chemical where there is jet service. Originally, we were going to do it in Kugluktuk, but they cancelled the jet service there, so we are doing it in Cambridge Bay. So that is the explanation for that one.

Like I said, if we go through this whole process, you will understand the reasoning behind it. I think that I have met with Mr. Barnabas on this airport terminal building in Resolute. I think we have come to a good understanding of the reasoning behind it. And we could do that right down the line here.

As for the Fort Simpson access paving, this \$650,000 came from Highway 1, that was supposed to have been second stage paving, but we took the money from there, we also put some more money in the major culvert replacement from that money that we took from that paving and yes it is a new, looks new on the new project, but it has been in the plans for some time here but it was not on the five year capital plan.

I just want to say, as well, specifically, that this one here is the project where the community of Fort Simpson had written to the Department expressing concerns regarding the safety of vehicles and pedestrians on this three kilometres long gravel section. The traffic volume on this section is high compared to other highways in the Northwest Territories and there is also a very high volume of pedestrians and bicycle traffic on this area here. This road is very narrow, and gravel surface, and the dust control is applied on this section, but it demands a very high maintenance due to the traffic and the nature of the material that is in it, and I just want to add that there are a lot of people that have been living in that area.

Over 235 units are in that area and this section of the community is growing and the justification for approving this access paving is for safety reasons and the plan for this current year was to do this three kilometres to this, Wildrose Acres, that is the name of the residential subdivision outside the built up area of Fort Simpson and like I said the main reasoning behind this is for safety reasons and I just also want to add that the Department allocates this capital funding for programs based generally on the level of

base funding transferred from the federal government for these programs and there is an order of priorities and the priorities are first the rehabilitational replacing of existing facilities, upgrading of existing infrastructure to standard, and of course, constructing new facilities.

Within this highway program the priorities are based on the analysis conducted, the objectives set out and the number of strategies that we have been able to update through the years.

Mr. Chairman, in the overall general discussion that is going on here I agree that there are some things that jump out at you and I do not blame the different members for zeroing in on this and

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it is a concern, and the process, if that is the case then perhaps we should deal with it somehow and if there is some real specific problems of any of these things that come out, I will try to explain the reasoning behind it, but if it is a general discussion, and general displeasure on how this thing happened I also said earlier that maybe we should look at the process and see a place in this whole process where the different members could be notified, or consulted, whenever a major shift in the capital funding is going to take place. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. My list is growing. We are going around the third time. We have Mr. Henry, Mr. Roland, Mr. Barnabas, Mr. Enuaraq, Mrs. Groenewegen...Mr. Henry?

MR. HENRY:

Mr. Chairman, I think you were going to take me off the list there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I may as well recognize the clock. We have a long day today. By the way the community named Kugluktuk means, sounds like Dene, but it is actually Coppermine. I will report progress. Thank you.

--- SHORT RECESS

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. We are on items 20 report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ningark?

Motion 15-13(3) Acceptance Of Report Of Committee Of The Whole

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering table document 68-13(3), and would like to report progress and Mr. Speaker I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, seconded by Mr. Arlooktoo. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Third reading of Bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, the meeting is for tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee Infrastructure as well at 9:00 a.m. with the Standing Committee on Social Programs and at 10:30 a.m. of the Ordinary Members Caucus. Orders of the day for Thursday, October 3rd, 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 #16
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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20. Report of Committee of the Whole

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21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 3, 1996, at 1:30 pm.

-- ADJOURNMENT