



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**3rd Session**

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## **HANSARD**

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**The Honourable Samuel Gargan, Speaker**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1996**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

-- Prayer.

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

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Good afternoon Members, orders of the day, Ministers' Statements, Mr. Dent.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

Minister's Statement 95-13(3): NWT Literacy Week

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. Mr. Speaker this is Literacy Week in the Northwest Territories.

Literacy is more than just the ability to read and write - literacy skills reflect a person's ability to understand and use information. Literacy is also important to maintain and support the aboriginal languages and cultural traditions of the Territories.

Literacy requires the support of all Northerners. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment has supported 30 community-based literacy projects. Eighteen more projects are being delivered by the colleges.

We also recognize that improving basic skills among employees in both the private and public sectors is critical to the long-term development of the Northwest Territories. The Department is developing a workplace education strategy which will broaden our literacy partnership with businesses, unions, and community-based employers.

Another important partner is the N.W.T. Literacy Council, which plays a vital role in developing and

maintaining links among literacy practitioners. Earlier this fall the Council sponsored a successful literacy training event which attracted more than 70 educators from across the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, Literacy Week is also a time to honour the people dedicated to literacy and I am pleased to announce this year's recipients of the Literacy Recognition Awards:

- Mary King, of Hay River, has volunteered at the local elementary school where she has helped children improve their reading. She organized a summer reading program for students and has been involved with the local parent action committee.

- Helene Usherwood is the Adult Education Instructor at the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre in Yellowknife. She has developed a program grounded in the cultures of First Nations and Metis people. It has helped raise learners' self-awareness and self-confidence.

- Dorothy Beaulieu has taught kindergarten and the Chipewyan language and culture program at Deninoo School in Fort Resolution for 21 years. She is well-respected by the school staff and the community.

- Nunia Qanatsiaq has been involved in literacy as both an educator in Hall Beach and as a

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student in the teacher education program at Nunavut Arctic College. While completing her Bachelor of Education degree in Iqaluit, Nunia volunteered as the editor of the College's student newspaper. Through Nunia's hard work the newspaper has become the most popular reading material at the College. It has encouraged a great deal of student writing.

- Sheila Purvis has worked in the field of literacy for more than 40 years. For the past eight years she has lived in Fort Smith, where she has delivered a high quality English program at the Thebacha Campus, established a Skills Development Centre for students with special learning needs, and has instructed in the Certificate in Adult Education Program for both Colleges.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate these award winners, and thank them for their commitment to literacy in the Northwest Territories. I invite the Members of this House to join me for a brief

presentation of the Literacy Awards in the Great Hall later this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister's statement, Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 96-13(3): Award of Service to Masood Hassan by the Transportation Association of Canada

**HON. JAMES ANTOINE:**

Mahsi Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to inform the Assembly that a senior official of the Department of Transportation is receiving national recognition for his contribution to Canadian transportation.

Mr. Masood Hassan, Director of Transportation Planning in the Department of Transportation since 1991, is being presented with an award of service by the Transport Association of Canada at its annual conference this month. The Association gives this award each year to a few selected individuals who have made a long term contribution to the Association and to Canadian transportation.

The citation for the award states that Mr. Hassan is among a selected group of transportation professionals in Canada who have successfully contributed to all aspects of Canadian transportation, encompassing professional practice, teaching, research, and publications. Mr. Speaker, I ask members of the Assembly to join me in congratulating Mr. Hassan in this achievement.

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

Ministers' Statement, Mr. Todd

Minister's Statement 97-13(3): 1995 W.C.B. Annual Report

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate later time today I will table the annual report of the Workers Compensation Board for the period January 1 to December 31, 1995.

In 1995, 5,865 businesses registered with the W.C.B., of these more than 3,100 employed one or more workers, 3,600 claims for compensation were accepted, 64 percent from engine workers between 25 and 44 and more than half from Fort Smith region.

In addition, 19 traditional harvesters or their dependants received benefits under government agreement initiated in 1994. The W.C.B. awarded the supplementary pension increase last year of 1.3 percent, equal to the increase in the C.P.I. It also recommended a \$1,500 increase in the year's maximum insurable remuneration. YMEA announced an 8 percent reduction in the average assessment rate for 1996. Major time loss claims were reduced, there were fewer requests for review, and fewer appeals of decisions.

Employer assessments totalled \$24.4 million last year and \$13.3 million was realized from board investment. The W.C.B. paid out 3.2 million for workers injured in 1995, and \$14.2 million for those injured in previous years. An additional \$24.4 million was set aside to cover the future trust of any and all existing claims.

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Of the year ended in 1995, the W.C.B. was fully funded, it had maintained its capacity to reserve at the required level of \$4.7 million, and added a surplus of \$7.8 million to its operating reserve which now totals \$13.9 million.

Well, there is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that the Workers' Compensation Board has met its statutory responsibilities. The true measure of this organization however, is that it did it, did more than it was obligated to do. The Board took steps to improve both its fiscal responsibility and customer service. A new investment policy and governor's plan were developed as a result, W.C.B.'s asset mix was changed to put more emphasis on equity investments. International equities were added to the mix, and clear rules were established for rebalancing its portfolio. The safety initiative and rate reduction production was implemented to promote safety in the workplace, and make the collective liability system more equitable. Employer claims manager was introduced without employers taking an active role in managing their workers compensation claims. Industrial classifications were reviewed in 1995 and the number of sub-classes were reduced to provide greater stability for the investment rates, Mr. Speaker. An extensive policy review was undertaken, a new policy manual is now available for all stakeholders.

A program was developed to promote safety amongst the North's artists and carvers, and to increase their awareness of the coverage available from the W.C.B. A special needs audit was performed on pensioners with significant disabilities, approximately 50

employers in 12 communities participated in the board's on the job training program to return workers to the workplace, and over 2,000 unemployed workers took part in the safety training.

Mr. Speaker, in the coming years, the W.C.B. will meet its new responsibilities for occupational health and safety, it will continue to address the expansion of non-renewable resource industries and prepare for the vision and the growth of Nunavut. I would like to personally commend the board of directors and the staff of the W.C.B. for providing a strong foundation on which the NWT/WCB can address the future. Thank you.

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

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Ministers' statements. At this time I would like to recognize a group of grade 5 and 6 students from Weledeh Catholic School and their teacher, John Cain, welcome to the Assembly. Members' statement, Mr. Morin.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement On Literacy Award Recipient Dorothy Beaulieu

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour and privilege today, as MLA from Tu Nedhe to recognize the well-known and well respected and well-loved of my home community of Fort Resolution, in announcing this year's literacy award winners the Honourable Mr. Dent, has already told you about Dorothy Beaulieu. A teacher who is helping to keep the Chipewyan language alive for both children and adults in Fort Resolution. And how her support of aboriginal language development makes her a valuable role model to others in the community. Dorothy, along with four others will be recognized in a brief ceremony, later this afternoon, in the Great Hall.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell you a little more about Dorothy, who is in the visitor's gallery today. And explain to you why she is a special and valued member of our community.

Dorothy has taught kindergarten and the Chipewyan language and culture program at Deninoo School, in Fort Resolution for the past 21 years and she started teaching at a very very young age. As the first teacher for young people entering school for the first time, Dorothy makes a point of greeting them personally and warmly as they enter her classroom. With that

kind of welcome kindergarten or school is no longer a scary prospect but rather a place where the kids go to

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visit Auntie Dorothy. And after 21 years of teaching, you can imagine how many students were greeted by Auntie Dorothy and how many lives she has touched and changed.

Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to be able to speak today about Auntie Dorothy and I will be very proud to present the literacy award to her later this afternoon.

On behalf of all of Fort Resolution, and the hundreds of people who she has taught and encouraged, I would like to thank her for her strength, her warmth and her caring.

Our community and the lives of our young people are richer because of her.

Mr. Speaker, everyone basically in Fort Resolution knows Dorothy Beaulieu as a kindergarten teacher. Everyone affectionately addresses her as Auntie Beaulieu, including myself. We do that with the greatest of respect because she has made many many changes and encouraged young people to continue their education and encouraged them through their first years in Deninoo School, including all four of my sons.

With that I would just like to add a special thanks to Auntie Dorothy.

Mahsi cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' Statement, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Member's Statement On Premier's Award Presented to Amittuq Residents

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would personally like to thank the Premier, first of all.

On August 1, last summer, that he was able to present a reward to my riding and I would like to thank him personally for what he has done to my riding. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement on Isabella Bay Bowhead Whale Sanctuary

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I advised the House that I would not be in Assembly yesterday due to the fact I would be in Iqaluit. Over the weekend members of Baffin Central and I attended a joint meeting of Isabella Bay Steering Committee and officials of NTI.

The Isabella Bay Steering Committee is a committee of Clyde River Hunters and Trappers Association of which I am a member.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the people of Clyde River and NTI and the protection of Isabella Bay area. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you Mr. Ningark. Members' statement Mr. O'Brien.

Member's Statement On Update on Activities of the Keewatin Resupply Committee

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, early last spring, the honourable Jim Antoine, Minister of Transportation, agreed to strike a committee to review the Keewatin resupply issue, which included the proposed Rankin Inlet tank farm.

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Mr. Speaker, the committee consists of all members of Keewatin, a representative from the KIA, three MLAs from the area and a representative from the Infrastructure committee. The Minister of Transportation also asked if I would chair this committee and I agreed to do so.

Mr. Speaker, meetings were held in Arviat and Baker Lake and a third and possible final meeting will be hosted by the hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet early in November.

Mr. Speaker, this committee has retained the services of Mr. Peter Allen to act as independent consultant to review all information and data compiled in this issue, and also to verify and support all options that may be available to the committee. To date, the committee has been presented with five possible options relating

to the best solutions for the Keewatin resupply issue. During the last meeting at Baker Lake, the committee, stakeholders and delegates were presented with the options, pros and cons, of each option as well as the capital funding required for each.

Mr. Speaker, the options were as follows:

Base Case, which is the status quo, Churchill,

Modified Status Quo, full hub,

Rankin Inlet, split hub.

Direct resupply, and

Mixed hub.

Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that a great deal of new information has come to light, during the review of the fuel resupply study and it is fair to state that things have changed since the original presentation was released by this government approximately a year ago.

Mr. Speaker, it is also fair to state that the recommendation that will be agreed to will be based on capital funding available and also which option will best serve all Keewatin communities in a fair and equitable manner.

Mr. Speaker, it is the committee's intent to have a formal report ready for this house with a feasible and equitable recommendation by year's end.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would like to thank the members of the committee, stakeholders, and all of those who participated to date in this review. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement on YWCA Week without Violence

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Quyannimik Ohaqte. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a long history of empowering women and families, fostering racial and social justice, and preventing violence. In communities across Canada, the YWCA is leading the way to a violence-free society.

I am pleased to inform this House that this is the first annual "YWCA Week without Violence." It is a national crusade to end violence in our daily lives.

Mr. Speaker, across the Territories, and indeed across the country, too many people, particularly women, are still living in violent conditions -- whether that be in the form of physical, emotional or sexual abuse. We all know the statistics, and I am sure Members will agree that they are not something to be proud of.

In February, 1994, this House adopted a motion which was unprecedented in Canada and one which won us a lot of praise. It was a declaration of zero tolerance for violence. Unfortunately, leaders of aboriginal organizations, municipal governments, trade unions and boards and agencies have been slow to follow the example set by the Legislative Assembly.

During the 12th Assembly, I was proud to sponsor a private Member's bill which ensures that a person

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convicted of an offence involving violence against another person may not continue to serve as a Member.

One of its initiatives is the provision of a crisis shelter for abused women and children. Alison MacAteer house opened as an eight bed facility in 1986. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the demand for access to the shelter has continued to increase ever since.

There is a different theme each day during this week's YWCA week without violence. Today's theme is "Making our Schools Safer". Mr. Speaker, thankfully, violence in northern school yards has not reached the same level that is prevalent in many schools in the south. However, abusive language, insults, obscene gestures and physical attacks occur too often in some NWT schools, especially at the junior and senior high school levels. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays, you have unanimous consent, Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker, honourable Members.

Mr. Speaker, we all have a role to play in ridding society of this plague of violence. I applaud the leadership role displayed by the YWCA and I urge all Members of this House and all NWT residents to live this week without perpetrating, observing or investing in violence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Member's Statement, Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement on Comparative Analysis Between the PEI and NWT Financial Positions

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to share some interesting statistics with my honourable colleagues today, I have here figures comparing the problems of Prince Edward Island with the Northwest Territories. I am providing this information because there is an important lesson to be learned from it. As the smallest province, PEI's population is closest to that of the Northwest Territories. Our population is 66,000 whereas PEI has 137,000, our government's budgets are similar. In 1996/97 PEI had an \$800 million budget, and the Northwest Territories had a \$1.2 billion budget. We expect to spend about 3 - 4 million in interest charges this year. Prince Edward Island's government had to allocate over \$120 million to service their debt which has grown to almost \$1 billion, that 120 million represents 15 percent of the total expenditures of the province's government and is the second largest item in the budget next to salaries of provincial government employees. In our case, Mr. Speaker, that percentage would represent over \$180 million, we have already made substantial cuts in this years budget to stay as far away from that debt such as PEI has. You imagine what \$180 million in cuts would mean in the Northwest Territories, it would mean cutting out 100 percent of our capital projects, or could it mean cutting the size of the public service in half. The fact, Mr. Speaker, is that we simply can't handle a debt load of that size. At least Prince Edward Island gets 60 percent of their revenues from sources they can control. In our case only about 20 percent of our revenue is from sources other than from the federal government. We have to learn from the mistakes of others, we do not dare let ourselves get into the situation similar to that of Prince Edward Island, we must balance our budget as soon as possible. Our plan as an Assembly upon approving

this year's budget was that we would avoid making drastic cuts this year to ensure a balanced budget 1997/98.

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

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Members' Statement, Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement on The Need to Proceed with Construction of a New Baffin Regional Hospital

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For many years my people have been going to hospital. For them a trip to hospital was not down the road. Many of them have travelled by ship, airplane and even railroad to get to a hospital in the south. Many of our relatives did not return from southern hospitals, even now, we are still locating the graves of our relatives.

Mr. Speaker, our people have very mixed feelings about hospitals over the years but we all agree that getting a hospital in our region was a vast improvement over ending up in Hamilton, Ontario. We still travel a long way to our hospital and it is still complicated. We recognize the reality that a hospital for each community is not possible. We also recognize that there is only one hospital in the Baffin region. Fifteen thousand people in an area of two thousand kilometres from end to end with some of the most difficult weather and flying conditions in the world.

Mr. Speaker, if we can only afford one hospital in these circumstances, then it must be the best possible. We have learned that our existing thirty-five year old hospital was planned for a replacement many years ago and that the Government of Canada has even been paying instalments towards this replacement. We learned yesterday that these instalments have been swallowed up by the GNWT's general operating fund and have been spent.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Shame.

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Mr. Speaker, one good hospital with good equipment, dedicated staff and enough room to ... (inaudible) ... and service is not too much to ask. Our region has

one of the highest birth rates in the world and our mothers are obliged to travel to the hospital for a majority of their births.

The attitude of the government toward this new hospital project is not good enough. I will be working with my colleagues and the Minister responsible to ensure that this project is given the priority it deserves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Here, here.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Members statement, Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement On Improvements Needed to Highway No. 3

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleague Mr. Jake Ootes has mentioned this topic previously, I feel however, that the number three highway is very important to the safety and the economic future of the North Slave and the Yellowknife residents. I have looked at the statistics for this road and have found that the ... (inaudible) ... the increase of accidents on the Highway No. 3 over the past few years.

This is a cause that is related to the additional amount of traffic, due in part to the increased amount of exploration involvement of mines.

What will it be like if when BHP and other potential mining groups start production at their sites? It seems to me the accidents on the roads will climb considerably. I know that this government insists that the road will be upgraded, starting in two years, but I believe that we must move this project ahead in order to protect our residents.

Tourists provide economic benefits to the region and

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also the rest of the western territory. This highway was ... (inaudible) ... into southern Canada as well as the rest of North America, it should be given the first priority. Please consider this as notice to the Minister that I will be asking questions on this very important issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Rabesca. Members statement, Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement On National Family Week

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to read a press release from Family Services in Yellowknife, entitled "Re-discovering Family Strengths" and it is in honour of National Family Week from October 7th to 13th, 1996.

"This week we celebrate National Family Week. We join with Family Services Canada and local family service agencies across Canada including our own NWT Family Services to re-discover family strengths and to reinforce family strengths for our own sakes, for the sake of our children and their children and beyond.

We seek to re-discover and celebrate the ways families support and help their members through life's many changes, through life's joys and sorrows.

We seek to rediscover the basics of what families are all about, caring, nurturing, supporting and developing the potential of all their members.

This rediscovery belongs to all of us. To the families themselves and the individuals who belong to them, to the institutions and agencies who serve them in health and education and all the other areas, to communities, to employers, to governments, to all of us working together.

In the words of poet, D.H. Lawrence, "I am part of the sun, as my eye is part of me. That I am part of the earth, my feet know perfectly and my blood is part of the sea. My soul knows that I am part of the human race, my soul is an organic part of the great human race, as my spirit is part of my nation. In my very own self I am part of my family."

So let us all together, during this National Family Week, and all year long rediscover and celebrate the strengths and achievements of our families. The strengths and achievements of your family and all families in your community.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Members' statement, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement On Support for the Affirmative Action Policy

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker almost 30 years ago the Government of the Northwest Territories moved north from Ottawa.

At that time, it was common practice to hire from the south. Beginning in the mid-1980s this government made a commitment to the people of the Northwest Territories to support the hiring of northerners through the Affirmative Action Policy.

Mr. Speaker, despite this policy being in place for a number of years, the statistics are still abysmal. While there has been some success at the lower levels of the government, the number of aboriginal people and long-term northerners in our ranks is still very small.

We talked a good story about commitment to employ northern people, however actions speak louder than words. Our deputy minister level positions and other senior management level positions are our highest profile positions. Surely the government should demonstrate its support of homegrown talent by starting to appoint some of the very qualified aboriginal people and long-term Northerners to these positions when they come open.

How long will we ask the people of the Northwest Territories to continue to be the hewers of wood

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and drawers of water while we continue to bring people in with little or no northern background to fill most of our senior positions? When will this government start recognizing the talents, abilities and fresh ideas of those right here? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Members' statement, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement on The Need to Rationalize Major Government Initiatives

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**



Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have seen a number of dramatic changes introduced in the last year, in the way the government does business.

New initiatives such as the consolidation of departments, privatization of government services and infrastructure and community empowerment are all fundamental changes to the way this government works.

But I, Mr. Speaker, have serious questions about the implementation of these initiatives. Plans are being put into place before they have been extensively debated and while internal reviews are still in progress.

The major initiatives of this government must be subject to a rationalization test. That is, the Minister or department responsible for a new initiative should be able to make a concise presentation covering the purpose of the change, the benefits, the risks, the savings, the costs, the up side and the down side.

Using the example of community empowerment, it seems that there is no middle ground between the portrayal of the status quo as a dictatorship by a central far away government, with no communication with the communities and the image of community empowerment as a wholesale offloading of responsibility to communities.

Yet, there is a perception that to question the implementation of community empowerment is to speak against the principle of community consultation, respect and attentiveness to the needs of our constituents.

There must be middle ground where community empowerment really is the best of both worlds. With important decisions being made at the community level but with adequate monitoring by a central government.

This government has not convinced me of that. I have not heard a clear explanation of how the government will maintain responsibility for the health, welfare and safety of our citizens if community transfer initiatives fail.

I have not heard a clear explanation of the rationale for the amalgamation and consolidations of departments that have taken place and are planned for the future.

I have not heard a clear explanation regarding hardship through such things as the privatization of

the petroleum products division in a marketplace where competition is not a viable safeguard. I would like to hear Members speak out to delay or oppose such initiatives until Members are satisfied that the rationales make sense and are in the best long term interest of the people we represent. Let us make sure that the road we are charging down takes us where we actually want to go. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Ms. Groenewegen. Members' statement, Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement On Measures Needed to Combat Breast Cancer in Northern Communities

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was visited yesterday by Meril Faulkner, a friend and a constituent of mine. A few years ago Meril was diagnosed with breast cancer. Fortunately, the tumour was detected early and Meril was treated successfully. Yesterday she told me of two of her friends who were less fortunate. One died from this

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Awful disease and the other is undergoing painful chemotherapy. As some of you may know, the Canadian Cancer Society has declared October breast cancer month. That is why Meril stopped by my office. She wanted to talk about the steps the Government of Canada and the Northwest Territories have taken to ensure people are informed and have access to programs designed to detect cancers before they become life-threatening.

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to report that the NWT has been slow to respond to federal initiatives to launch screening and information programs and campaigns. We have the stationary mammography clinic at the Stanton Regional Hospital. Residents of the western Arctic make appointments when they travel to Yellowknife. This arrangement looks okay on paper, but Meril raised a good question when she asked how many people know they can, cannot, or should make use of this service.

A brief look at some statistics suggests the message is not getting out to the people who need to know. For example, records show that Dene and Metis women make far less use of the mammography clinic than non-native women.

Mr. Speaker, 82 northern women were diagnosed with breast cancer between 1980 and 1993. Thirty-three have died. We may not be able to do much to prevent the incidents of breast cancer, however, I agree with Meril when she says we can do a lot to prevent deaths from breast cancer. Screening is the key. In Saskatchewan, doctors have a portable mammography unit. They use it to run screening clinics in the province's remote aboriginal communities. We may not have the money to buy such a machine right now, but we do have the ability to ensure northerners are aware of the important role screening and regular examinations play in early diagnosis and successful treatment of breast cancer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Members' statement, Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement on Community Empowerment Initiatives in the Mackenzie Delta Constituency

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is in regards to the whole question of the government's initiative in regards to community empowerment. The government has pledged to improve social conditions and to empower communities and to work towards community wellness, and also the idea of being fair and equitable to all communities and regions in the Northwest Territories. Yet my constituency, Mackenzie Delta has the lowest cost per capita expenditure on projects in the whole Northwest Territories compared to any other riding in the Northwest Territories. Projects designated for my constituency have been cut, have been moved. For example, the aquatic project to establish a camp dealing with the Department of Justice, and also core funding to the Gwich'in Healing Camp. And also now we are hearing the cuts to the Inuvik hospital which have been signed, sealed, and delivered to agreement between this government and the Government of Canada to transfer and build health facilities in the Northwest Territories.

This government talks about community empowerment, but when a community or region wants to take initiatives to establish facilities to help in the area of empowering their communities to deal with community wellness and also to deal with the whole problem, social problems that arise in these communities where we do not have an economic

base, like most communities, and also the expenditures that this government spends in southern institutions, with no blink of an eye which are still sending people to southern facilities and paying a lot more than what has presently been allocated to Gwich'in Healing Society. The Government can talk about fairness and being equitable to all regions, I would like to see them practice it in my riding as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement on Support for Actions that Counter the New Federal Gun Control Legislation

**HON. JAMES ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because today, I have an interpreter, so I will be saying this in my own language.

When we were elected to be MLAs to be sitting in this House, we are here to represent all the community, all the people from the communities. So, when we are in the House here dealing with matters, it seems like we do things on our own in here, it seems like we do not involve the people. Right now we are assembling in the fall time, my wish was that I was out there hunting instead, but I think things like this, when we get together like this, we are suppose to be representing the peoples from the communities. There are a lot of important issues that we are dealing with and this will all involve the people from the communities, so I think they should be more involved. Now is the fall hunting season now and I am thinking about the gun regulations, the paper that the federal government had brought out. I often think about things like how these gun regulations affect people out there in the community. The people out in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon, they are taking these gun laws to court because they do not agree with the laws. In our part of the country there are a lot of people who use, they use guns to go out hunting. Even the younger kids know how to handle guns, they are allowed to go out hunting, this is the way they are raised. Right now what we are hearing about what the government is saying there is a lack of funding for a lot of projects, so another way people can provide for themselves is

to go out on the land and hunt for themselves, so I think the gun regulations, I think we really should support the people of the community on the gun regulations. Thank you.

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

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Members' statements, are there any further Members' statements? Returns to oral questions, returns to oral questions, recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Todd.

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

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. Louie Pilakapsi, Mr. Pilakapsi is the former president of the KIA, former mayor of the community of Rankin Inlet, has been an active spokesperson for Inuit in a claim and the drive towards Nunavut for the last 20 years, a man that I have a lot of respect for. Thank you.

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

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a constituent from Hay River today, a respected elder in Hay River, Mrs. Florence Larocque.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dorothy Beaulieu, a respected teacher from Fort Resolution who is here today to receive a literacy award, and I would just like to recognize Dorothy now. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to recognize Helene Usherwood today, who I spoke about earlier in my Minister's Statement. She will also receive a literacy recognition award this afternoon and, although I think she may have just stepped out of the Chambers, she has with her the entire Tree of Peace adult education class, so I would like to recognize both Helene Usherwood and the Tree of Peace adult education class, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Rabesca.

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**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two of my constituency reps here this afternoon in the gallery. Their names are Coral McSweet and Louisa Smothnic. I think they are still in the gallery.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize someone from my home community, Rene Francis and anybody else up there from Mackenzie Delta, welcome.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko, welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize some visitors in the gallery from the Yellowknife North constituency, Mrs. Caroline Larocque, Miss Charlotte Woods and Beatrice Woods and I would like to add that I have known this family since I was a very young boy and I would like to welcome them to the gallery.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize some constituents of Yellowknife South, Mabel Loutitt, Angus Christensen and Loli Willy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to recognize a former constituent of Kugluktuk. Richard Hytuk is in the gallery. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 419-13(3): User Pay/User Say Initiative

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Public Works and Services on this new user pay/user say program.

Could the Minister elaborate on the rationale for cutting that pot of money by up to twenty-five percent and then expecting departments and agencies and boards to be able to pick up the extra cost. How do they anticipate these various agencies and arms of government to be able to do that? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister Responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 419-13(3): User Pay/User Say Initiative

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The user pay/user say initiative was one of the new directions of Cabinet, earlier this year and the philosophy there is that, once we let managers manage and departments take care of their own utility costs, phone costs and other costs, that they will be able to manage their resources and money in a more cost effective way and therefore we

expect that departments will be able to deliver their own services at a less cost than was done previously.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, oral questions supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 419-13(3): User Pay/User Say Initiative

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize this is an initiative that has a lot of merit on paper and it may have in reality as well. Is there going to be a tracking mechanism to ensure that should there be different departments in the government, or different agencies, that cannot survive this, or cannot cope with this new

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approach, that there will be a way to accommodate that so that we cannot create a possible, a real problem, by not tracking this as we try to implement this to see, if in fact, it will meet the goals we have set out?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 419-13(3): User Pay/User Say Initiative

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, we do recognize that there may be problems in some areas where we are providing departments with a bit less money than we had spent previously, but that is part of the overall deficit reduction of programs that we have and yes, indeed, we will keep an eye on how the departments are doing and keep track of the progress and really it is too early to tell how the departments are doing, but we do expect them to live within the budgets that we give them.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Question 420-13(3): Funding For New Regional Hospitals

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Yesterday the Minister of Health said that in reply to a question from Iqaluit MLA that the money for the Baffin and Inuvik hospitals will be found when construction begins. Construction is scheduled for 1999 and the year 2000. Where will we get this money?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 420-13(3): Funding For New Regional Hospitals

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding for those projects will have to come from a combination of federal funding contributions and from capital estimates that are approved through this Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions supplementary, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Supplementary To Question 420-13(3): Funding For New Regional Hospitals

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

I did not hear his reply, but my second question, can the Minister reply what happened to the eleven million dollars that the federal government gave us for the Inuvik and Baffin hospitals?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng, perhaps you could respond to his first question, clarify his first question, and then answer the second one.

Further Return To Question 420-13(3): Funding For New Regional Hospitals

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you. In response to the first question I indicated that the funding would have to come from a combination of contributions from the federal government for their cost sharing arrangement and secondly through appropriations approval through this Government of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, to finance the projects. In respect to the supplementary question, in response to

that, on where are the payments from the federal government, the pre-payments that they have given to this government. As I have indicated in answering questions to other honourable Members, that money has gone into the general consolidated revenue fund of this government in the years that they were received, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions, Mr. Krutko.

Question 421-13(3): Funding For TI'oondih Healing Society

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services, Kelvin Ng. Could the Minister tell me exactly the initiatives that have been taken ... (inaudible) ... nurses only healing program ... (inaudible) ... and also what funds have been allocated to other facilities in, not only the Northwest Territories, but southern Canada, are

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we still funding southern facilities to this date, who are they, and at what cost to this government?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. That was two questions. Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 421-13(3): Funding For TI'oondih Healing Society

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, those are specific detailed questions and I do not have that information here. I will commit to providing that information to the honourable Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Picco.

Question 422-13(3): Construction of a New Baffin Regional Hospital

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Minister of Health, Kelvin Ng, said that the federal government had transferred eight million dollars, but the P.L.

Escalator eleven million dollars to the territorial government for the Inuvik and Baffin hospitals, where is the money now?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 422-13(3): Construction of a New Baffin Regional Hospital

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not know why my answers are not coming through to the honourable Members. I have said that the money, the payments, that have been received on a yearly basis from the federal government have been put into the general consolidated revenue fund of the Government of the Northwest Territories on a yearly basis as they have been received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, oral question supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 422-13(3): Construction of a New Baffin Regional Hospital

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of the Baffin have been waiting for a long time for their new hospital. When will it be built, now when the GNWT has no money?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 422-13(3): Construction of a New Baffin Regional Hospital

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated on numerous occasions, it will be built when the financing is secured from both the federal government and from our government, to allow projects in both Inuvik and Iqaluit to proceed in a timely fashion Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral question supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 422-13(3): Construction of a New Baffin Regional Hospital

**MR. PICCO:**

What year will the hospitals be built?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 422-13(3): Construction of a New Baffin Regional Hospital

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this time we do not have a definitive date on when construction would start, or when construction would finish. It would depend on planning out the facilities and securing financing for those facilities Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will cancel my question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Ootes.

Question 423-13(3): Breast Cancer Screening Program

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**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. Earlier I spoke about breast cancer screening programs for the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I guess if we had a lot of money, I would ask the Minister if he would consider obtaining and purchasing a portable mammography unit so that screening could be done by doctors in, and hold clinics in the communities. Given our fiscal situation, I understand that this is impractical this year, but if the Minister could give me an idea if he would consider this for next year, or at least put it into the planning program.

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

The Minister of Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 423-13(3): Breast Cancer Screening Program

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker if health boards and agencies put forth the request and justified the long term savings as a result of having this type of piece of equipment to provide services for constituents certainly it would be something I would take into consideration. Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Thank you. Oral questions supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 423-13(3): Breast Cancer Screening Programs

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I heard the Minister state that if it was up to the health boards, and the hospitals, if they saw a need for it, I am asking the Minister, and I think it is evident that we need it, a breast screening program in the Northwest Territories, and I wonder if the Minister would look at this question again, that I asked, will he consider putting this into the process for a future year, perhaps within the three or four years program. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 423-13(3): Breast Cancer Screening Programs

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I am trying to convey to the honourable Members is the fact that we put in our capital submissions on behalf of health boards and agencies to provide health care services throughout the Northwest Territories, so if there was a request that came forward, from that board requesting this type of equipment, and we felt that it was appropriate, then I would, as the Minister of Health, submit that on their behalf for financing, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Thank you. Oral questions supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 423-13(3): Breast Cancer Screening Programs

**MR. OOTES:**

Yes, Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the meantime, I wonder if the Minister would consider introducing a program of information to communities. Apparently the communities are getting very little information on breast cancer screening, and there is not a lot of advantage taken of the unit that is here in Yellowknife, unless people are directed there so by nurses and doctors. I wonder if the Minister would introduce a program that would take into consideration the northern element and language programs that we have, so that the information is available in the aboriginal languages as well as English, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 424-13(3): Breast Cancer Screening Programs

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly, I am not positive right now what information, what programs that are currently in place throughout the Northwest Territories, but certainly, I will check into that matter, and advise the Member accordingly. Thank you.

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

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

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Question 424-13(3): Sale of Staff Housing

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the sale of staff housing. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise how many staff houses have been sold to date since the inception of this program? Thank you.

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

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd. Mr. Todd, would you like to respond again because it is not in the Hansard, you responded too fast.

Return To Question 424-13(3): Sale of Staff Housing

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

No, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

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

Supplementary To Question 424-13(3): Sale of Staff  
Housing

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That eliminates my second  
question, I will go to my third. Can the Minister advise  
this House, what is the criteria for a staff person who  
wishes to be eligible for a housing unit?

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

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 424-13(3): Sale of Staff  
Housing

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They have to live in the  
house, I believe, at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

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

Supplementary To Question 424-13(3): Sale of Staff  
Housing

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Mr. Speaker. I can assure you Mr. Todd, these are my  
questions. Can the Minister advise the House how  
many units are presently owned by staffers and how  
many are owned by private corporations or  
development corporations? Thank you.

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

I do not know if the Minister will have the details, but  
those types of questions could be in written format for  
the Minister's response but, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 424-13(3): Sale of Staff  
Housing

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer to both  
questions is, no, no. If they want to make a written  
question, they could provide that to the honourable  
Member. Yes.

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

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

Supplementary To Question 424-13(3): Sale of Staff  
Housing

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Mr. Speaker, I will not be making a big question on  
this, but I would ask when the Minister would have  
this information available to this House? Thank you.

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

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 424-13(3): Sale of Staff  
Housing

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

When I am asked for it in a written question, then.

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

Thank you, Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 425-13(3): Timelines For Introduction of a  
Balanced Budget

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the  
Minister of Finance regarding government debt  
concerns, which I mentioned earlier in my member's  
statement.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Minister is as anxious as  
I am to ensure the Government of the Northwest  
Territories avoids such a fate as Prince Edward  
Island, regarding their large debt. Can the Minister  
assure this House and the citizens of the Northwest  
Territories, that the budget, he and the cabinet  
colleagues are preparing for 1997/98 will be a  
balanced budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Minister of Finance. Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 425-13(3): Timelines For Introduction of a Balanced Budget

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A very important question that, which as of today, and I would like to assure my honourable colleague that in keeping with our original plan for a two year strategy to meet the balanced budget that I will be making a statement tomorrow or the next day with respect to the current situation, which I believe is, we are on track, and am confident that with the Members support, of course, on the continuing commitment to balance the budget for 1997 that we will meet that track and under no circumstances do we want to place ourselves in a position where both the children east and west are left with a legacy of debt. Thank you.

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

Oral questions, Mr. Barnabas.

Question 426-13(3): Federal Gun Control Legislation

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ever since the gun control legislation was announced by the federal government, northerners have been concerned about it would be and the impact it would have on all of us. In the middle of August this year, the federal Minister, Alan Rock, unveiled the new licensing fee structure. The document was hard to read and hard to understand, clarification was supposed to come by the end of August. It has been nine weeks since the structure was announced. Has the Minister of Justice received clarification from the federal Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Minister of Justice. Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 426-13(3): Federal Gun Control Legislation

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, No, not at this time. Thank you.

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

Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 427-13(3): Reconstruction of Highway No. 3

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you are aware, I expressed some concern over the sections of Highway No. 3 between Rae Junction and Yellowknife. It is slated to start reconstruction in two years. I feel the potential amount of increased traffic on this section of road will make it very dangerous to drive. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Transportation if he would consider bringing this construction ahead to start this coming year, instead of waiting for two years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 427-13(3): Reconstruction of Highway No. 3

**HON. JAMES ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the highway section from kilometre 243 to kilometre 335 Highway No. 3, that the Honourable Member is concerned about, between Rae and Yellowknife.

I just want to say that last Friday when I drove on that highway and coming back again on Sunday, I noticed that the transportation workers were working very hard trying to get the road in good shape before it freezes, so that they will have a good road surface throughout the winter. The people that work on this road, I stopped and talked to them, and they were saying that they are trying to maintain the road as best as they can, under the circumstances, so I would, first of all like to commend the workers, that work on that stretch of highway for doing a good job. As for answering the Honourable Member's question, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that pre designed planning is now being finalized for the reconstruction

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for this section of road between Rae and Yellowknife. I know that this section is one of the most heavily travelled in the Northwest Territories. It is programmed for reconstruction to bring it up to the same standard as we have on the rest of the route

from Yellowknife to the Alberta border. The existing conditions have been documented and identified. Alternate arrangements for construction are being undertaken at this present time. So there is a lot of work being done in pre-planning, Mr. Speaker. A lot of work still has to get into it in the pre-planning stage, because this particular part of the country is bedrock and granite, which the road passes over. The cost per kilometre is estimated to be two and half to about three times as expensive as the reconstruction of the highway south of Edzo. I am told that the cost is about \$300,000 per kilometre to reconstruct the road between Edzo and Providence. You could use your mathematics to determine that it is going to cost quite a bit per kilometre to rebuild the road between here and Rae.

As we all know, the financial situation that we are in is driving this whole government. To bring it up and try to meet the budget deficit as we are all trying to do here, we are all committed to do, it is going to be impossible to move it up sooner than what the honourable Member is asking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 427-13(3):  
Reconstruction of Highway No. 3

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister considered possible investors to assist with this project as there are a number of parties out there that will benefit from the improved road service, such as different mining companies, and other organizations that may have interests in improving the road system? There must be upgrades on this road as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return TO Question 427-13(3):  
Reconstruction of Highway No. 3

**HON. JAMES ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department is exploring the potential of developing this road by developing partnerships between the government and

the private sector and aboriginal partnerships. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 428-13(3): Reclamation Measures for Yellowknife Mines

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question is for the Premier. Just prior to that, looking at the Hansard from yesterday, and I did not realize that the Premier had indicated he did not know that we would be in session at the end of November. I just wanted to inform the Premier that indeed, we will be in session during the end of November. So he does not have to worry about bringing everybody back to discuss the amalgamation of Transportation, Housing and Public Works and Services.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Yellowknife was founded on gold mining, and this mining activity is still very evident around us today. There has been some speculation that at least one mine is reaching the end of its ore reserves over the next decade. There are significant reclamation issues that will require resolution at that time. Can the Premier confirm what measures are being taken to ensure that adequate resources have been set aside so that adequate reclamation measures will be taken at the time that mining activity is concluded.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 428-13(3): Reclamation Measures for Yellowknife Mines

**HON. DON MORIN:**

I will take that question as notice, and have the Minister responsible respond to the Member through this House. Thank you.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 429-13(3): Timelines For the Construction of New Regional Hospitals

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we have heard here throughout the day, the dollars for the new hospitals are going into the general revenue. We are hunting to find the rest. Mr. Speaker, I am quite concerned with what is happening here. I would like to know from the Minister of Health and Social Services what priority are the hospitals, on, on the capital plan? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 429-13(3): Timelines For the Construction of New Regional Hospitals

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the hospital projects continue to be a high priority of the Department of Health and Social Services over the balance of this term. They are the most significant capital project that this government will ever undertake. I would like to reassure the honourable Members that I will do everything in my powers to ensure that we can try to address the needs of both Inuvik and Iqaluit in providing proper health care facilities for their communities, and the service areas they service, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary. Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 429-13(3): Timelines For the Construction of New Regional Hospitals

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The second question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Can we expect that the hospitals will be built during the time of this government? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 429-13(3): Timelines For the Construction of New Regional Hospitals

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot definitely say whether or not they will or will not be built during the term of this government. As we all know, there are only two and a half years left in the mandate of this government. Having said that, though, I know, that work continues to be made on both of the projects and, we are hoping that we can resolve all these issues as soon as possible, to reassure people where we are heading for these two facilities, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 430-13(3): Methods to Achieve Community Wellness

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier. The Premier stated that the government is committed to improve the social conditions, and empowering communities, to work towards community wellness. Does the Premier agree that the best way for northerners to heal themselves is through community-based solutions?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 430-13(3): Methods to Achieve Community Wellness

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize the Member is asking me for my personal opinion. I will give him my personal opinion. I believe that communities are best equipped to solve their own problems and make their own decisions at the community level. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Again, just for clarification, Mr. Krutko. You cannot ask the Minister about his opinion on a certain issue, but you can ask the Minister about the policy governing a certain issue. Mr. Krutko. Supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 430-13(3): Methods to Achieve Community Wellness

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**MR. KRUTKO:**

Supplementary. Outside of Fort McPherson, the Tl'oondih Healing Society launched a healing camp which helps families overcome alcohol and drug abuse. This project, or similar, are unsupported by the government initiatives, which include community empowerment, community wellness. However, these programs cannot work in isolation, without adequate funding support from the government. Will the Premier commit to ensure that programs such as the Tl'oondih Healing Camp receive funding support to remain an effective part of community wellness?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 430-13(3): Methods to Achieve Community Wellness

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That would be a question better put to the Minister of Health. With that I will take it as notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Your question is taken as notice. Oral questions, Mr. Henry.

Mr. Krutko, your point of order.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A point of order, my question was to the government that the Premier is the head of, that I asked the question. Does the Premier endorse the government's commitment? The government's commitment is the government sitting on that side of the House. That is who the question was directed at, the government.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Again, on the point of order, Mr. Krutko, you do not have a point of order. The Premier or any other member of Cabinet has the right to take any question that the Member poses on notice and also, the Premier does also have the right to designate his question to other Ministers that are responsible in that area. So, you do not have a point of order, Mr. Krutko.

Oral questions, Mr. Henry.

Question 431-13(3): Liquor Commission Actions to Heighten Fetal Alcohol Awareness

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to Mr. Antoine, the Minister of Safety and Public Service, who also has responsibility for the Liquor Act.

Last Thursday the Minister was part of a joint Members' statement on fetal alcohol syndrome awareness. Being the Minister responsible for the NWT Liquor Commission, could you please advise this House what the Commission is presently doing, if anything, to promote awareness of the dangers of drinking especially for a pregnant woman? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for Safety and Public Services, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 431-13(3): Liquor Commission Actions to Heighten Fetal Alcohol Awareness

**HON. JAMES ANTOINE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Safety and Public Services responsible for liquor control in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker, we take the responsibility for the regulation of liquor very seriously and recognize that some northerners have made a personal choice to use liquor as part of their lifestyle.

However, we are committed to ensure that when liquor is sold people are aware of the health risks associated with these products and in many ways, our Liquor Commission does as much, if not more, to encourage awareness of FAS/FAE than any other liquor distribution agency in Canada.

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Liquor stores also dispense booklets, available both in English and Inuktitut, about the responsible use of alcohol. We have the bags we put the liquor bottles in that have the warnings, we also have warning labels on the bottle itself. In addition, our liquor licensing office in Hay River is working with the operators of bars and dining lounges and other licensed premises to ensure that posters are in place in locations where people go to drink outside the home.

As well, the liquor licensing office makes staff available under any requests from licensees to conduct server intervention training, so that bar managers, doormen, bouncers, waiters, waitresses and other personnel in licensed premises are themselves aware of the risks associated with the use of alcohol. Part of the server intervention training program includes information about the risks associated with drinking during pregnancy, so that bar staff can encourage their clientele to use alcohol in a responsible manner.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, I understand that there is at three o'clock a literacy award that is going to be taken in the Great Hall, so we will stop the clock and invite Members to go and participate in the awards.

We will take a fifteen minute break.

--- SHORT RECESS

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions, item 6. With Mr. Henry. Oral question, Mr. Picco.

Question 432-13(3): Current Deficit of the GNWT

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, John Todd, I would like to know exactly how much the current deficit is of the government of the NWT? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 432-13(3): Current Deficit of the GNWT

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I would not know how to answer that question, Mr. Speaker, as of today. I could advise the Member what the projected deficit is, but I can not tell today what the deficit is. Be about a million billion dollars worth of money, changes by the hour, the day or the week. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 432-13(3): Current Deficit of the GNWT

**MR. PICCO:**

No, I did not expect Mr. Todd to come back, Mr. Speaker with the exact dollar figure right down to the last cent, but I did expect him to know an approximate term for the people of the Northwest Territories, the public debt of this government at this present time, the accumulated deficit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 432-13(3): Current Deficit of the GNWT

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the clarification from Mr. Picco, I believe as I said

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earlier to this question that we are going to meet our targets and we may in fact, with a little luck and a lot of luck, even surpass them. So, the targets set for the last year. I believe we are hoping to have an accumulated debt of somewhere around 40-43 million. It will either be close to that or under that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 432-13(3): Current Deficit of the GNWT

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know reading in the media that the honourable Member spends an inordinate amount of time trying to explain things to me and giving me the big picture as it were, I read in the media. My question, supplementary question to the honourable Member, the honourable Minister, the honourable knowledgeable person, is the exact amount of the deficit is proposed to be about 46 million in the deficit. Is that for the current year, '96/'97, is that upcoming or is that the deficit for '95/'96? Maybe you could just qualify that so I can come back with my next supplementary question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 432-13(3): Current Deficit of the GNWT

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

My honourable colleague is correct, I do spend an inordinate amount of time trying to explain to him the deficit but it is obvious I am not getting through, so I will try again. I think I said the other day what I really need is a flip chart and a magic marker, but I do not have one here today, so I will try again. So, we are expecting the accumulated deficit somewhere around \$43 million, it flows back and forth as you know, depending on our expenditures and our revenues. I am optimistic and confident we will meet our targets. I said earlier today I will be making a speech or a statement tomorrow or the next day, being very specific so that the people of the Northwest Territories know exactly where we are at, and that the good sound fiscal management of this government is in safe capable hands. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 432-13(3): Current Deficit of the GNWT

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, of course, the reason for my questions, as Mr. Todd probably realizes now, is that the accumulated deficit is 43 million, but in the House yesterday, Mr. Todd said that this government would be looking at cutting \$100 million dollars and so the question begs to ask is why, if the accumulated deficit or deficit is 43 million, why this government is going to cut 100 million?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 432-13(3): Current Deficit of the GNWT

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Picco does not need to talk to the Finance Minister, he needs a chartered

accountant. I mean, we have gone through this I do not know how many times. The projected deficit was somewhere in the region of \$150 million dollars, the 2-year deficit elimination strategy meant that we had to take \$160 million out of the system this last. And we have got another \$100 plus million we have to take out this year to meet a balanced budget in 1997 which would then leave us with an accumulated deficit of somewhere in the region of \$80 million. Have I made it clear, Mr. Picco?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 433-13(3): Status of Trailcross Facility Privatization

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

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It is in regards to privatization of Trailcross, a child care facility in Fort Smith. I wonder if the Minister could indicate the status of that privatization initiative and whether savings would be realized?

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 433-13(3): Status of Trailcross Facility Privatization

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the privatization is finalized and that the proposal calls and an award was made, I do not have the name of the company right now with me.

I can say that the savings that were expected from that privatization initiative will not be met due to the fact, primarily, that all of the existing, or the former employees of Trailcross chose to take severance packages and as a result of that we will have to pay out, over the course of the next fiscal year and because of that Mr. Speaker all the savings will not be materialized. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 433-13(3): Status of Trailcross Facility Privatization

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate when he anticipates Trailcross will be up and running?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 433-13(3): Status of Trailcross Facility Privatization

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was my understanding that it would have been sometime this month, I am not positive if it is operational at this current time but I will commit to finding that out and advising the Member accordingly. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 433-13(3): Status of Trailcross Facility Privatization

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second to the Minister, and probably one of the most important ones is, could the Minister also find out or indicate how many local people have been rehired by this new contractor?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 433-13(3): Status of Trailcross Facility Privatization

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker I will commit to finding out that as well. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Steen.

Question 434-13(3): Status of Staff Housing Policy

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is addressed to Honourable Mr. Todd, the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if Mr. Todd could give the house clear direction as to whether or not there is still a policy in place, whereby this government is responsible for supplying staff housing. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 434-13(3): Status of Staff Housing Policy

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker. The policy of this government is to provide staff housing to staff in certain circumstances. Yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Steen.

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Supplementary To Question 434-13(3): Status of Staff Housing Policy

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like the Minister to be aware that I have been advised that in the community of Tuk, we stand to lose possibly six, at this time no less than four teachers by Christmas because of the Minister's actions to sell the houses out from underneath them. I would just like him to become aware that this is having a grave impact on the smaller communities where the choices are not great if they are there at all in regard to where a teacher could go if their house is sold out from under them. I wonder if the Minister could assure that where there are no options for teachers to seek housing elsewhere, at a reasonable price, that he will allow for staff housing in those communities.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 434-13(3): Status of Staff Housing Policy

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome back my colleague Mr. Steen. Let me assure Mr. Steen, publicly, and the community of Tuktoyaktuk, that it is not our intention to sell the houses from underneath the tenants that are in them, it is our intention to provide options to our staff with respect to staff housing. We have to ensure it is affordable, as Mr. Steen rightly points out, and I want to assure him that steps will be taken, and steps are being taken now to ensure that housing for teachers and others, I remind everybody, will be available and I will look into this particular matter with respect to Tuktoyaktuk later on today when I meet with Mr. Steen to give him the comfort he requires. That his constituency will be taken care of and the teachers that are looking after his children and his neighbours children are provided with staff housing at an affordable cost. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Erasmus.

Question 435-13(3): Claims Rejected By the WCB in 1995

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board.

The Minister earlier made a report on the 1995 WCB's annual report in which he indicated that 3600 claims for compensation were accepted. I would like to know how many claims were rejected?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 435-13(3): Claims Rejected By the WCB in 1995

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I do not have the actual number available to me today, but I can answer the question this way, that historically, and I have been responsible for the WCB now for close to five years, that the number of appeals, if you want, that is the ones that do get turned down and then go to appeals, has been minimal over the time that I have been active in this Board and the Board's been in

place. But I will commit to the honourable colleague, to get a very definitive answer on how many appeals have been rejected during the last year based on the fact that 3600 claims for compensation were accepted. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral question supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 435-13(3): Claims Rejected By the WCB in 1995

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How long does it take for an appeal to be heard? How long does this process take?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 435-13(3): Claims Rejected By the WCB in 1995

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**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Of course, each appeal is different, Mr. Speaker, on some occasions it takes longer than others. I think it would be fair to say that a common complaint historically with the WCB was the length of time it took to deal with appeals because you are dealing with workers who are injured. An inordinate amount of effort was done under the former chairmanship of Mr. Bourque and others to try to speed up the appeals process.

So it is hard to answer my colleagues question as to does it take a week, does it take six weeks? Each case is viewed differently but there is clearly a recognition and understanding within the Board and the administration that appeals have got to move expeditiously through the system and I believe they have done that, through a summary of the last two years, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 435-13(3): Claims Rejected By the WCB in 1995



**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do injured workers get paid some sort of allowance from the Workers' Compensation Board while their appeal is happening?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 435-13(3): Claims Rejected By the WCB in 1995

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I believe the answer is no, Mr. Speaker. What happens is, a claim goes in, goes before the adjudicators, a recommendation is made to the Board, if it is rejected then they have a certain period of time to appeal it, there is an appeal process in place. So, I stand to be corrected, but I believe the answer is no. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions, final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 435-13(3): Claims Rejected By the WCB in 1995

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, what recourse is available to these people if they are appealing a decision, they are not getting paid, what are they expected to live on during this appeal period?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 435-13(3): Claims Rejected By the WCB in 1995

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Like I said, Mr. Speaker, I stand to be corrected but I do not believe there is any payment but I will check on that.

My understanding is that, as I say, the appeal process, people have tried to move very very quickly through that so that we can respond to the injured worker. But in fairness to my colleague and his question, I am going to take it as notice, so that I give a more accurate interpretation of what actually occurs

as it relates to appeals and compensation for appeal claimants. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The question is taken as notice. Oral questions, Mr. Krutko.

Question 436-13(3): Achieving Wellness through Community Programs

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. The government has committed to improve social conditions, to empower communities and to work towards community wellness. Does the Minister agree that the best way for northerners to heal themselves is through community-based solutions?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 436-13(3): Achieving Wellness Through Community Programs

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it is my opinion and that of the government that community wellness does originate at the community level and they would have the best means and have the best knowledge to enact programs and changes that would provide the

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benefits to their residents, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 436-13(3): Achieving Wellness Through Community Programs

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary, as the Minister knows, outside Fort McPherson there is the Tl'oondih Healing Society that wants a healing camp to help families overcome alcohol and drug abuse, family violence. This project is similar to those initiatives established by government such as community empowerment, community wellness.

However, these programs cannot work in isolation in regards to funding and support from this government.

Will the Minister commit to ensure programs such as the Tl'oondih Healing program receive the financial support to remain an effective part of community wellness?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 436-13(3): Achieving Wellness Through Community Programs

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it is the thrust of this government to try to support communities, to put the resources to where they feel they can best address the needs of their community, and in view of that I know I have indicated that...I have indicated that we are proposing some changes to the way that we fund some of programs and to speak in a general nature, Mr. Speaker we are trying to provide more funding to the communities at the community level to give them more flexibility and prioritizing what their needs are, in addressing their needs so that we are hoping that through that they can recognize what programs they want to finance and what their priorities are, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions, Mr. Krutko, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 436-13(3): Achieving Wellness Through Community Programs

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, the government has stated that programs such as Tl'oondih would not get core funding like other institutions, they basically got a flat per diem for clients. If the government is not willing to provide adequate funding such as core funding to programs such as Tl'oondih Healing Camp then how are the communities expected to heal their people.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 436-13(3): Achieving Wellness Through Community Programs

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will take it that if the Tl'oondih Healing Camp was well supported by communities in the region and throughout the Northwest Territories as a result of the effectiveness of their programs and then they had those financial resources within their communities to send people to the Tl'oondih Healing Camp and that is where I would see the support for this type of initiative, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Krutko, final supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 436-13(3): Achieving Wellness Through Community Programs

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary. You are aware Mr. Minister that the federal government has already moved towards funding an aftercare program that the Tl'oondih Healing Program, a million dollars paid out over three years, and basically, through this contribution, to ... (inaudible) ... from the federal government an initiative that they see as being important, why is this government not sharing that same view in regards to supporting this initiative?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

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Further Return To Question 436-13(3): Achieving Wellness Through Community Programs

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated before in this House, we have been more than flexible, I think, in providing a three hundred thousand dollar contribution towards payments for services and in trying to make the extended health benefits program more flexible to allow individuals to be financed for treatment through the Tl'oondih Healing Camp from those funds, Mr. Speaker. So, I think, we have tried to accommodate the Tl'oondih Healing Camp as much as we can and will continue to support them as much as possible given the financial

restrictions that we have on our funding, Mr. Speaker.  
Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 437-13(3): Lack of Probation Officers in  
Communities

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been a  
concern in our region with the lack of probation  
officers. My question is for the Minister of Health and  
Social Services and Justice.

Will he be addressing this problem in the near future?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 437-13(3): Lack of Probation  
Officers in Communities

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as many of us  
know, right now social workers with the Department of  
Health and Social Services, undertake community  
supervision and the probation supervision of  
individuals in our communities. What we have been  
able to do Mr. Speaker is that the Department of  
Justice has been able to secure funds for next year of  
approximately one and a half million dollars to be  
directed directly into community supervision so that  
we can free up social workers to do the child care  
focus that they should be focusing on over the course  
of their duties, Mr. Speaker, and to allow communities  
and other organizations to get into that supervision  
area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The time for oral questions is now over.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Item seven, written questions. Written questions, Mr.  
Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Question for the Minister of  
Health, is it the Minister of Health's position to provide  
core funding to community based programs?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Continue.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

The other question was, what is the Minister's position  
on...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Read your written questions. Okay, to the Members,  
question period is now over and we are on written  
questions. So, if the member for Mackenzie Delta  
has got written questions, please proceed.

Written Question 8-13(3): Core Funding For  
Community-Based Healing Programs

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Question to the Minister of  
Health. What is the Minister of Health's position on  
providing core funding to community based healing  
programs? Supplementary one; does the Minister  
realize that the Tl'oondih healing program is in  
jeopardy and its future ability will be lost because the  
Gwich'in Tribal Council can no longer provide core  
funding to the society?

Question two. The Tl'oondih Healing Camp currently  
employs thirty people, not only is the camp  
contributing to healing our people, but it is also an  
economic benefit to the region. What can the  
department do to support the social efforts to keep the  
Tl'oondih Healing Program open?

Question three: Can the Minister tell the house how  
much funding has been given to other healing

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facilities in the past 10 years in the Northwest  
Territories?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Written questions. Written questions.  
Returns to written questions. Returns to written  
questions. Replies to opening address. Item 10  
petitions, item 10, petitions. Item 11, report of  
standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of

committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Tabling of documents, Mr. Krutko.

#### ITEM 13: TABLED DOCUMENTS

##### **MR. KRUTKO:**

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a package, Tabled Document 83-13(3), of background information on the Tl'oondih Healing Program which I received from Gwich'in Healing Society.

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

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Todd.

##### **HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, Tabled Document no. 84-13(3), the 1995 Annual Report of the Workers Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Tabling of documents. Notices of motion, Mr. Krutko.

#### ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

##### **MR. KRUTKO:**

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 10, 1996, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member of Iqaluit, that Tabled Document 83-13(3) entitled Information on the Tl'oondih Healing Camp be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion.

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

Thank you. Notices of motion, notices of motions. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Motions for first reading of bills. First reading of bills, second reading of bills, Mr. Ng.

#### ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

##### **HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member of Nahendeh that Bill 18, an Act to Amend the Public Trustee Act be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this Bill amends the Public Trustee Act to provide that excess interest earned by the investment of the common fund to be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, rather than into a special reserve fund. The

Government of the Northwest Territories guarantees that the common fund will meet all lawful claims, and if necessary, funds will be appropriated out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to meet this guarantee. When this bill comes into force, the special reserve fund will be wound up and the monies within the fund will be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Thank you, your motion is in order to the principle of the bill. Principle of the bill questions being called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 18 has had second reading and accordingly stands ordered to Standing Committee. Second reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

##### **HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 19, Electoral Boundaries Commissions Act be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker this bill provides for the establishment of two Electoral Boundaries Commissions, the Northwest Territories Boundaries Commission, which will review the existing electoral boundaries, and that part of the Northwest Territories that will not be included in Nunavut, and the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission, which will review the existing boundaries in that part of the Northwest Territories, that will comprise Nunavut. Each commission will conduct public hearings in the course of this review and will subsequently prepare a report. This report will be made public and will be laid before the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Your motion is in order to the motion. Questions being called, all those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 19 has had second reading. Mr. Ng.

##### **HON. KELVIN NG:**

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 69(2) and have Bill 19, Electoral Boundaries Commission Act ordered into committee of the whole. Thank you.

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

Thank you. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 69(2), do we have any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent. Accordingly, Bill 19 will be moved into Committee of the Whole. Consideration in the Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters, Tabled Document 1-13(3), Minister's Statement 82-13(3), Minister's Statement 86-13(3), Committee Report 6-13(3), and Bill 19, with Mr. Steen in the Chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

I call the Committee to order, and on the agenda for today we have Tabled Document 1-13(3), Report of the Commission on MLA Compensation. Minister's Statement 82-13(3), Premier's Sessional Speech, Member's Statement 86-13(3), Senior's Fuel Subsidy Program, Committee Report 06-13(3), Report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations on the Report of the Auditor General for the year ended March 31, 1995; Bill 17, Business Corporations Act; Bill 19. I will have Mr. Ootes to address how we should proceed here.

**MR. OOTES:**

Mr. Chairman, I would recommend that we go onto item Committee Report 06-13(3), Report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations on the Report of the Auditor General for the year ended March 31, 1995, as the first item and then Bill 17 after that. In that order.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Do we have agreement from the Committee? I would suggest that we take a ten minute recess here so that we can get everything in order.

--- SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Committee has agreed to deal with Committee Report 6-13(3). I believe Mr. O'Brien would like to speak to that. I understand that we left off yesterday on recommendation number 4. Mr. O'Brien, you would like to speak to that.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Yes, thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, I would like to withdraw my motion at this time and if that is

agreed, then I am prepared to make another motion on this matter.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Does the Committee agree? Honourable Members?

-- Agreed.

Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you. I move that the Standing Committee recommends that the government amend relevant legislation, regulations and their policies to ensure that the crown corporations, and other entities of the government, meet the requirements of the Financial Administration Act regarding corporate plans and annual reports and further that the government table in the Legislative Assembly, by January 30, 1997, proposals, including suggested penalties to amend legislation, or regulation and/or policy to strengthen compliance for reporting under the Financial Administration Act.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

The motion is in order, to the motion. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I think it is important for the record to state that we appreciate my Honourable colleague, Mr. O'Brien, and his colleagues making these adjustments to these motions to date. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. To the motion. The question is being called. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? Abstain? The motion is carried. I assume where we left off yesterday is recommendation number 5, number 6 and number 7, page 7. Mr. O'Brien, do you want to speak toward recommendation number 5?

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**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Mr. Chairman, if I can continue with information on other issues.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Are you talking about issues other than recommendation number 5? We are now on other issues on page 6, is that correct? Yes, Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under other issues, page 6. One chapter of the report consisted of a follow up to the Auditor General's 1992 Comprehensive Audit of the Department of Health. The Auditor General was concerned that the department was too slow in carrying out the recommendations of the comprehensive audit. For example, the comprehensive audit stressed the need for a strategic plan governing health care delivery in the NWT.

Mr. Ramsden suggested that a draft of the plan might be complete in the next eight, 12, or perhaps 18 months. Committee Members also discussed concerns about the relationship of the health boards, information systems and the flow of information between the department and the boards. Outside the report Members discussed the issue of municipal loans, briefly, with the other general staff.

Members expressed concern about municipal accountability with regard to community empowerment, following up on an issue in last year's report relating to loans to municipalities. Problems with municipalities' budgets have lead to concerns by committee Members that the significant transfer of funds and responsibilities included in the community empowerment initiative could lead to further problems.

Mr. Voytilla agreed to provide further information to the committee regarding plans to ensure adequate accountability to communities and the committee intends to pay close attention to the financial health of municipalities and the accountability framework of the community empowerment initiative.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Shall I proceed?

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Recommendation number 5: the Standing Committee recommends that the Legislative Assembly request the Auditor General of Canada to conduct an independent review of how the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs assesses and determines the financial health of communities through municipal reporting processes, and further

request that the review be reported independently to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly as soon as possible, preferably within the next six months.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Are you putting this in motion form?

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Mr. O'Brien, your motion is in order. To the motion. Question. Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried. Proceed Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I will now turn this over to the Chair, Mr. Erasmus.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Erasmus, you wish to proceed.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Chairman. A concern from last years report related to the governments information systems, ... (inaudible) ... concerned that many of systems, Members were concerned that many of our systems were out of date and did not adequately help with bureaucracy. Three Members agree that the government's information systems should allow the Members to measure results not just processes.

Mr. ... (inaudible) ... agreed that many of our systems were geared to process reporting rather than results reporting, and that the government's informatics strategy was designed in part to change that.

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Members also discussed a group meeting to identify government assets and liabilities prior to division. This in turn is related to a concern from last year's report on evaluation of fixed assets. Traditionally assets such as buildings and land are represented on the governments books as having a nominal value. Typically \$1000, or \$1.

The Auditor General recommended last year that this practice be brought up to date in accordance with recommendations made in 1986 by the public sector accounting and auditing board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. By valuing assets at their true worth, Members agreed that the government should move quickly on this issue, and that the assistance of the office of the Auditor General be sought by identifying assets and liabilities prior to division. Mr. Chairman, I move that the standing committee recommends that the government immediately begin valuing fixed assets in accordance with the recommendations of the public sector accounting and auditing board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, and is recommended by the Auditor General in his report for the year ended March 31, 1994.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. We have a motion on the floor. To the motion. Questions being called. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried. Do you wish to proceed, Mr. Erasmus?

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Finally, the Auditor General staff suggested to the Committee that language in the NWT Act relating to auditing requirements was outdated, and that the language in the Nunavut Act was more comprehensive and up to date. Committee members agree that this situation should be remedied when feasible. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Standing committee recommends that suggested amendments to sections 27 to 31 of the Northwest Territories Act designed to more closely match the language in sections 42 to 48 in the Nunavut Act, to be forwarded to the federal government for their consideration in conjunction with any suggested amendments made to enable constitutional development of the new western territory. Or in any case, before April 1, 1999.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Your motion is in order. Motion on the floor. To the motion.

Question been called. All those in favour? Opposed?

Motion is carried.

We have now reached the end of the report but I understand that we now have to move back to recommendation number 2. Oh, I am sorry,

recommendation number 1. Do you wish to wish to speak towards this Mr. Erasmus?

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to withdraw my motion at this time and if that is agreed then I am prepared to make another motion on this matter.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Do Members agree to allow Mr. Erasmus to withdraw his motion?

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

You have agreement Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

(inaudible) ... determine an inventory of potential environmental restoration sites on Commissioner's land in the Northwest Territories and report back to the Legislative Assembly prior to March 31, 1997.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

The motion is in order. We have a motion on the floor. To the motion.

Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion carried.

Does this committee agree that Committee Report 6-13(3) is concluded?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

We will proceed then to the next item, which would be Bill 17, Business Corporations Act. Is that correct Mr. Ootes?

**MR. OOTES:**

Yes, that is what I recommend Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Okay we will then move on to Bill 17, Businesses Corporations Act.

I will now ask that the Minister responsible for this bill to introduce the bill. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, a consultation draft of the Business Corporations Act was released to the public and specifically circulated to the business community and the legal and accounting professions for their comments.

After considering responses which were received and amendments which have been made or are being considered as similar legislation elsewhere, an updated version of the bill was introduced this past spring.

This Act would replace the present Companies Act and the Companies Winding-Up Act. Current legislation has not been adapted to current commercial practices and in a number of areas overlaps with personal property security legislation and securities legislation.

In the past twenty years most of the provinces and the Yukon have adopted similar legislation. The Business Corporations Act would strike a more appropriate balance in respect of the rights of majority and minority shareholders, creditors and the public dealing with the companies, than is presently the case.

At the same time, we would simplify procedures, eliminate unnecessary applications to the court and eliminate areas of duplication with other legislation.

For the benefit of those Members who are not on the Standing Committee which reviewed this bill, the new act would:

- 1) simplify the procedure for incorporation, including elimination of the requirement to specify the objectives of the company and the requirement that each company have at least two shareholders.
- 2) improve the process for the approval of company names.
- 3) provide greater flexibility in the share structure and in the relations between shareholders.
- 4) simplify the procedure for amendments to the corporation's share capital, and for amalgamations, including reducing the requirements for court approval of these fundamental changes. This is achieved in part by providing for specific rights for minority shareholders who are not in agreement with the fundamental changes.

5) simplify the procedures for dissolving and reviving companies, including dispensing with the requirement for court approval in most instances.

6) eliminate unnecessary court applications while allowing recourse to the courts in the case of legitimate problems, in particular, where the minority shareholders are oppressed by the majority shareholders.

The Companies Act now provides that almost all fundamental changes to a corporation require the approval of the court, even where there are no shareholders who disagree with the changes. In other cases, the concerns of minority shareholders are not adequately addressed. It should also be mentioned that the Act has been drafted with division of the Territories in mind. All transitional requirements under the new Act must be completed by March 31, 1999 at which point the Companies Act and Companies Winding-up Act are repealed.

The proposed bill is lengthy and complex, but no more so than the present law in this area. By

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establishing a greatly improved legal framework within which existing and future Northwest Territories companies may operate, the bill should have the effect of facilitating economic development in the north.

In closing, I would thank the Members of the Standing Committee for their review and support of this bill. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ng. I would now ask the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Programs to provide the committee's comments on the Bill. Mr. Enuaraq.

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

(Translation) Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to report on the review of Bill 17, The Business Corporations Act, by the Standing Committee on Social Programs. Our committee held a public hearing, on this bill on October 3rd. The Minister appeared before us and provided answers to our questions. Overall, the committee is pleased with this bill.



The changes bring our legislation in line with our business corporations legislation across the country. The bill simplifies many areas relating to commercial practice. These changes are very appropriate at a time when, as a government, we are encouraging economic development, and promoting small businesses. There should also be less confusion, because the Bill will get rid of some overlap with other legislation, relating to businesses.

The most notable improvement in this bill is the expansion on identification of rights of minority shareholders. The rights are now more clear, and there should be less need for minority shareholders to go to the courts, where there are concerns.

The bill has provisions to ensure it is fully enforced prior to division. The committee did not have any major concerns with this bill. We believe the changes will be well received by the business community and will give us progressive business legislation consistent with our partners across the country. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. I will now invite the Minister to bring in witnesses if he wishes. That is agreed?

Could I have, Mr. Ng, could you introduce your witnesses, please?

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to my left is Gary MacDougall, director of legal registries and to my right is Mark Aitken, director of legislation division.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

I open the floor now to general comments on the bill by Members. Are there any comments on the bill? Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the Minister and committee is, have you looked at the possibility of an implication between bankruptcies and how this act will, sort of, mould together with that, or was that an issue that you considered also?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko, Mr. MacDougall.

**MR. MACDOUGALL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The bill is compatible with bankruptcy legislation but bankruptcy and insolvency is an area of exclusive federal jurisdiction so there are not changes which we can make in the existing rules governing bankruptcy. All that we can do, and which we must do, is ensure that this bill is compatible, which it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. MacDougall. Questions, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Yes, the reason I raised the question is that, that is something that I was looking at in regards to the, presently the Bankruptcy Act that is in place in the north is, sort of, obsolete, it is something that, sort of originated from southern Canada, brought to the north in regards to bankruptcies in the north especially this side of the.. traditional activities that people have in regards to the hunting, fishing, trapping. Say there is

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a business that is associated around those things that, during the time of bankruptcy, that they are able to retain some of those items to continue operating their traditional skills, such as the guns, the boat maybe, the harness for a dog team or whatever, that they do not lose everything. That there is some traditional aspects put in regards to the act, not looking at it just in the business sense of vehicles and, basically, equipment, but looking at it in the sense of using it to be able to carry on their survival skills in other ways. To be able to hunt and fish and trap by using those materials to do that. So that is why I raised the question, because that I was looking at. I was wondering if that was considered when you looked at this to see how those type of activities in that type of businesses are, sort of, protected?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that was not taken into consideration in developing this act because it had not to do with bankruptcy laws which are federal acts that govern us, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Are there any further questions or general comments? Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Have they looked at the implications under land claim settlements under they have certain corporate arrangements that they do have certain tax advantages and things that they have to follow in order to establish corporate identities under claims institutions. Have you looked at that aspect in regards to this bill?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, any tax implications would come under the Federal Income Tax Act again, it would not be within the mandate of the Business Corporations Act. This is to do with the establishment of companies in the Northwest Territories. However, having said that I think recognizing that a lot aboriginal land claims groups have development corporations, business arms that are designed and established for the purpose of generating revenues and incomes for their beneficiaries or their shareholders. They would fall under the ... (inaudible) ... of the guidelines under this act Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, the question was, have you looked at the possible implications of these land claim corporations who are established through land claim agreements and registered under certain regulations that are established north of the Territories in regards to businesses. So it is the business corporations that they do have such as the, use the Gwich'in for instance, they have the development corporation, they have a construction company, basically also, they have different corporations they have managed to establish, but through their land claims agreement, there is certain arrangements that they can only participate in certain activities to take advantage of the tax advantages in their agreement so they have to establish

corporations to basically the way it is spelled out in their legislation. So have you looked at the implication of claims corporations in the context of this business act?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Krutko. Honourable Kelvin Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Minister of Justice.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Mr. Ng, it would help for the record I guess, if you would say or refer to your witness.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I will refer the question to Mr. MacDougall. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ng

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Mr. MacDougall.

**MR. MACDOUGALL:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Certainly under the land claims which have been settled to date, they do not tend to establish anything unique in terms of the corporate structure in respect of any corporations that are established under those claims. To the extent that they did so, the terms of the agreement being given effect to by paramount federal legislation would nevertheless prevail. And at the same time, many of those corporate entities are already incorporated under federal legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. MacDougall. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

My question was, have they looked at the claims corporation in the context of this legislation. That was the question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would say generally speaking, no, because of the fact that if a claim corporation were to establish a business entity for the specific purpose of generating income they would have to be registered and operate under the rules of the existing or sorry, under the proposed changes that are being enacted with this Business Corporations Act, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

That is my, that is the point I was trying to make because the corporations under the claims institutions have certain advantages in regards to taxes just where they cannot shelter profits, but be able to carry them off into their non-profit organizations that they have for charitable contributions and which they can use that which is spelled out in their land claim agreement.

But, does this, in any way, affect that ability, which is legislated federally to protect that which there may be an inconsistency between this legislation and the legislation that they presently follow or have the advantage of that they have been able to negotiate through claims agreements, because it is a tax business advantage that they do take into account when they consider moving these revenues around.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Was there a question there, Mr. Krutko?

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Yes, I believe, there was. The question was that the Minister stated that they have not really looked in the context of claims agreements but, I believe, there is some discrepancies between this legislation and the legislation of the land claim agreements are enacted under and there can be a conflict down the road. So, how do they work, find out ways to resolve those conflicts through this legislation? It is supposed to make things a lot easier, I do not think that could be the case because it could confuse the existing claims agreements which are in place today.

So have they looked at that? And, are they willing to look at that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this legislation does not deal with income tax law, that is a federal responsibility and that is why it was not considered in developing this Business Corporations Act, but having said that, if there were to be differences because of the fact of whatever interpretation of this act, any federal law would supersede any of our statutes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. General comments or questions from the Members? The Members agree that we go clause by clause?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

We agree.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Agreed? Mr. Ootes.

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**MR. OOTES:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I recommend that we report progress on this matter.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

And move on? Are you putting forward a motion to report progress? Well, motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable, all those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

We are on item 20, reports of committee of the whole, Mr. Steen.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. STEEN:**

Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Committee Report 6-13(3) and Bill 17 and would like

to report progress with five motions being adopted and that Committee Report 6-13(3) is concluded.

And Mr. Speaker, I move the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Ng..Mr. Ningark I mean. Sorry Mr. Ningark.

The motion is in order. To the motion.

Question has been called. All those in favour?

Point of order Mr. Picco?

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think there were five motions. I think the honourable Member said five motions..I do not think there was five motions.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. I will ask the Clerk whether or not that is the correct...

Thank you Mr. Picco, but according to the records there are five motions.

Thank you. Thank you Mr. Picco, but you do not have the point of order. But it is nice that Members are keeping track and making their points.

The motion is in order. To the motion.

Question has been called. All those in favour?  
Opposed?

Motion is carried.

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

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Mr. Speaker, there will a meeting of the Ordinary Members Caucus at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow, of the Standing Committee of Government Operations at 10 a.m., of the Management Services Board at 12:00 noon.

Orders for the day for Wednesday October 9, 1996:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statement
3. Members' Statements
4. Return to Oral Questions
5. Recognitions 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 Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 16
18. Second Reading of Bill
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Tabled Document 1-13(3),
  - Minister's Statements 82 and 86,
  - Bills 17 and 19
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday October 9, 1996, at 1:30 pm.