



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3rd Session

Day ' %

13th Assembly

HANSARD

K 98B9G85M OCTOBER -, '1996

Pages 990-1041
Pagination reflects print edition

The Honourable Samuel Gargan, Speaker

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1996

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Minister's statement, Mr. Morin.

Minister's Statement 98-13(3): Minister Absent from the House

HON. DON MORIN:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Jim Antoine will be absent from the House for the remainder of the week to attend the meeting of the Council of the Ministers' Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety in Charlottetown. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Premier. Ministers' statement, Mr. Todd.

Minister's Statement 99-13(3): Staff Housing

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, previous governments made the decision, and this one concurred, to remove itself from the position of landlord to its employees. It started with the selling of staff houses in Yellowknife and gradually expanded to Hay River, and Fort Smith. Where no private market existed, one now exists. Next came Inuvik. Then the Government started to sell surplus houses in all communities across the Territories. Most recently, current tenants have been asked to make a reasonable offer on their unit without any

predetermined restrictions. In fact, the Government has made it clear that it will sell all its owned housing to either existing tenants or on the open market.

In concert with the sale of owned staff housing, the Government has also been reducing its inventory of leased staff housing, where this can be done without undue financial hardship to northern landlords. In many cases landlords have had the benefit of twenty years or more of guaranteed government leases and have achieved a degree of financial security where they should be able to rent to tenants at affordable rents. The time has come to cut the flow of government support and require these landlords to deal fairly and directly with the tenants.

Mr. Speaker, like any major change, the government's efforts to remove itself as landlord to employees has not been without challenges and, yes, opposition. The objections we are hearing today, are the same objections we heard many years ago in Yellowknife, and some of the issues and concerns are legitimate now, as they were then. Change brings issues that we must address.

Today's largest issues surround the sale of staff housing in small communities and the potential rental rate impact on employee/tenants of the government not renewing staff housing leases. Both issues are legitimate and need to be solved.

Since 1992-93 the government has sold over 400 houses to staff. Many staff have welcomed the opportunity to buy a house at a good price. There are some staff, however, that oppose the sale of staff housing, particularly in our smaller communities.

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To address this issue we must determine why staff are reluctant to purchase the house they are living in. The appraised value of these units is very conservative and staff can make a reasonable offer based on their own view of the value of the unit. Mortgage financing is available. Staff can actually reduce their monthly outlay for shelter by buying their staff housing unit, and the government will buy back the unit when the employee leaves at a price based on the appraised value if they cannot sell it in the open market.

Mr. Speaker, given these facts I can only conclude that staff are resisting the sales program because it has not been adequately explained to them. I know that the notices we sent out through the N.W.T.

Housing Corporation were sent late and in many cases did not go out consistently. Staff also experienced difficulty in getting answers to questions once they did receive their notices, and the long and the short of it, Mr. Speaker, is we did not communicate well. To compensate for these problems I am taking two steps:

First, I am extending the deadline for the current tenants to submit an offer to purchase on a single detached unit to October 31, 1996, the date when we must receive an expression of interest on multi-plex units is also extended to October 31, 1996 and on multi-plex offers to purchase until December 31, 1996.

Second, it is my intention to retain private real estate agents across the Territories to assist the government and tenants in this sales process. The government is not an expert in selling houses and has not done a good job in trying. Professional real estate agents will assist staff to understand the purchase offer and the economics and elements of buying a home.

Mr. Speaker, the second issue that must be addressed has to do with rent increases. Staff are worried, what they will face when the government does not renew existing staff housing leases. This is a much more complex problem than the issues surrounding the sales of government owned units.

As I stated earlier, some landlords have benefited from the security of government leases for many years. Their buildings have been paid for by now and they should be in a position to offer rental rates directly to tenants that reflect the financial security these landlords enjoy.

Other landlords, mostly northern landlords, have only recently entered the field and have not had the opportunity to build equity and must pay high financing costs. These northern landlords may not be able to bring rental rates down to the levels of more mature markets such as Yellowknife. In the case of the financially secure landlord, the government will not renew leases. For newer northern landlords, the government will consider lease renewals.

The dropping of some leases does mean that there will be a direct relationship between the tenant and the landlord. The landlord will set the rent, not the government. I firmly believe that where leases are dropped, the landlord should have the ability to offer a rent level in line with mature markets. As a result, tenants should not be subjected to rents significantly

higher than those in Yellowknife. Some difference from Yellowknife rates is to be expected, but employee tenants should be able to accommodate these differences as a result of the cost of living adjustments provided in the northern allowance.

However, Mr. Speaker, we do not live in a theoretical world, we live in a real one. Landlords accustomed to higher revenues from their properties may need time to adjust to the new economic realities. They may not be willing to reduce rents to affordable levels immediately. Eventually they must bring rents in line with what the market can afford or they will face very high vacancy rates, but the government cannot dictate what rents these landlords should charge, so time may be needed for market forces to begin to work.

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During this market transition period, employees/tenants cannot be left without some protection from significant rental increases. These tenants will also need time to make choices and pursue alternative housing if necessary.

Mr. Speaker, to bridge this market transition period, the government will provide up to twenty four months of rent support to tenants. Where the government drops a staff house lease and the landlord establishes a rent that is more than 10% higher than the rent the tenant was previously paying the government, the government will pay the difference to the landlord up to 10 percent less than the previous lease rate the government paid for that unit. Simply stated, the government will, as a minimum, expect the tenant to be able to pay 10 percent more and the landlord to receive at least 10 percent less. During the twenty four month period in which this transition assistance is provided, the government will provide additional assistance to employees/tenants to relocate to alternative accommodation if landlords do not bring rents down to reasonable level. If the landlords do not act quickly to make these rent adjustments, they face the prospect of steadily increasing vacancy rates as tenants choose other accommodation options.

Mr. Speaker, these measures are fair. They recognize and deal with real issues that staff and landlords have. But make no mistake, the government is committed to removing itself from the role of landlord to its employees and creating as much of a private housing market as possible. Scarce government funds must be used to provide support to those that need it the most.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Ministers' statement, Mr. Ng.

Minister's Statement 100-13(3): Health System Reform

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Department has entered into a dialogue with its partners and the public about what Health and Social Services should look like in the future.

We face many choices as we look to a reformed system -- the need to focus on prevention in a time of fiscal retreat may force us to take money from some areas so we can increase spending in others.

As we move into developing a strategic plan, we will continue that collaboration with more extensive consultation with partners and the public.

As a starting point, the department sent a flyer to every household in the Northwest Territories. We have already received input from the public by e-mail, fax and on the 1-800 line. Preliminary feedback focuses on the need for more education and prevention, equitable benefits and a long range strategy, Mr. Speaker, as the department moves into high gear in its strategic planning process, we must listen carefully to what people tell us that they think is important.

We must also look at what the communities are doing, right now, to shape their own futures. For example, recent tragic events in Kugluktuk have underlined the need for that community to come to terms with its problems. I am happy to report that the residents of Kugluktuk have stepped up the challenges they face, with a plan to integrate services in the community. This is being done so people can get the help they need, regardless of where they entered the system.

By working together towards more responsive services, perhaps this community will be able to work through these tragedies to a healthier, more positive future. Another example of a community taking control of its services is Hay River. I recently attended signing ceremonies which included a contract of the town to run H.H. Williams Memorial Hospital and Woodland Manor. We expect more communities will

come forward in the next few months to take an increasing role in their Health and Social Services

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delivery. Mr. Speaker, it is also important for regional boards to have autonomy in meeting health and social needs in their regions. The department is moving out of program delivery.

This shift will have a positive effect on the way boards deliver services. It will give them more autonomy, accountability, and control as well as flexibility to tailor programs to meet regional needs, and surplus and deficit retention. It is important for all of us to support this move toward autonomy by giving them control of the issues that affect them. The Department's ministry functions will include planning, policy and legislation, setting and enforcing standards, funding, monitoring, auditing, and evaluation.

Mr. Speaker, Health and Social Services reform is taking place throughout the country as a result of decreasing budgets and escalating social program costs. The NWT is in a very similar situation except for the fact that we have the highest birth rate and some of the poorest health status indicators in the country. We must begin to curtail our escalating costs by shifting some of our resources and programs from treatment to prevention.

Mr. Speaker, by focusing on longer term cost-saving initiatives, such as preventive programs, I am confident Health and Social Services reform will ensure a more effective, efficient system, which is sustainable in the long term. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to informing my colleagues about specific initiatives and directions in health and social services reform as we move through this session. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Minister's statement, Mr. Todd.

Minister's Statement 101-13(3): Fiscal Update

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later today, I will be tabling the government's 1995 interim financial statements. These statements show our financial results from the past fiscal years. In summary, the government ends up with a \$15.6 million annual deficit, and total revenues of \$1 billion and \$255.7 million. This is a slight improvement from the \$30.8 million annual

deficit estimated in the May 1996 budget and resulted in a closing deficit of \$27.2 million.

As I stated in the May 1996 budget, federal reductions to our form of finance and revenue began in the current fiscal year. The two year fiscal recovery plan developed by this Legislative Assembly allows us to recover from these reductions and once again start living within our financial means.

In May, I estimated that the deficit for the current fiscal year would be approximately 43 million dollars. To ensure that we meet this target, the Legislative Assembly passed amendments to the Deficit Elimination Act, also, the Financial Management Board instituted an expenditure management system to monitor on a monthly basis, the progress we are making toward meeting our deficit target and to ensure corrective action is taken, if necessary.

With these two accountability measures in place and the budget reforms we have implemented, I believe we will stay within our target of a 43 million dollar annual deficit for 96-97. Mr. Speaker, our plan is to return to a balanced annual budget in 97-98. We are on course to achieve this goal, if we remain committed to the reforms instituted by this House.

But make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, the reforms require that more difficult decisions lie ahead of us. Our priority must remain balancing the budget and moving ahead with the critical social reforms and economic initiatives upon which our future depends.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you Mr. Todd. The Chair would like to recognize, in the Speaker's gallery.

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Mr. Jean-Pierre Kingsley, Chief Electoral Officer of Canada and of the Northwest Territories.

Welcome to the Legislative Assembly Mr. Kingsley.

Ministers' statements. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to make my statement first, as I will be leaving for a period of time to go to a funeral.

My statement today is in regards to fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects.

The Member from Yellowknife South, Mr. Henry, and myself have made several statements on this subject and just to refresh our memories individuals with FAS/FAE can be compared in social behaviours and cognitive impairments to persons with a closed head injury. Their handicaps are hidden.

Mr. Speaker, children with FAE typically have normal appearance but have predictable problems in school, community and home.

FAS/FAE are the most common cause of mental retardation in the United States and is a condition that cannot be outgrown. The brain damage lasts a lifetime but the manifestations and type of problems change with each age.

Mr. Speaker it is absolutely important to indicate that FAS and FAE are 100 percent preventable.

Under questioning in this House the Minister of Health and Social Services had indicated that he is willing to work with other groups to get a strategy in place for this government to be able to tackle this preventable problem.

In the spring, after that statement was made I met with the FAS Community Team in Yellowknife. And we agreed it would be good for them to develop a strategy that they could present to the Minister and to this House.

The Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Henry, and myself met with this team the other day and they actually presented their strategy to us. They had to work hard over the summer and they are very proud of their achievement and I am also proud to say I played a small part in this.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you Mr. Erasmus. The Honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays?

Mr. Erasmus please conclude your statement.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will just read a little bit of their covering letter that they included with their strategy.

"Since it first began meeting two and a half years ago, the FAS Community Team has enjoyed a number of successes in raising public awareness about FAS and supporting families and children affected. Some of our successes include two television ads that have been broadcast in the NWT with prevention of FAS/FAE messages."

They have also developed two FAS/FAE prevention posters and a plain language information pamphlet. One of these poster, Mr. Speaker, is right here, there is also a pamphlet here and these two will be tabled later today along with the strategy.

There are several other successes, Mr. Speaker, which people can read once this document is tabled. I wanted to indicate further in this letter the strategy document was developed by the FAS Community Team which came together to advise the Living and Learning with FAS Project, which is funded by Health Canada.

The document is the result of many people who have

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experience in the community, coming to consensus about the most appropriate way to approach the complicated issues surrounding FAS/FAE. Members of the FAS Community Team include representatives from the following groups:

- The Department of Health and Social Services
- Parents
- Public Health
- Status of Women Council of the N.W.T.
- The Tree of Peace
- The Yellowknife Women's Centre
- Yellowknife Dene Community Wellness Program
- The Stanton Regional Hospital Paediatric Rehab Team

- The Yellowknife Education Region No. 2

- Mackenzie Regional Health

- The N.W.T. Council for Disabled Persons

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, this team had very comprehensive input from very many different types of organizations and areas of work in this field. The FAS Community Team has identified two objectives in this strategy as priorities:

Number one, to pilot a comprehensive treatment program for pregnant women with substance dependency issues.

Secondly, to develop and deliver a standardized modular training program, on FAS/FAE, with materials in plain language.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Quantifying The Value of Privatization Initiatives

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as part of the restructuring of government undertaken in the last year, a number of privatization initiatives have been introduced.

Computer systems, petroleum products delivery, vehicle pool, and many other government programs have been, or are being, out sourced to the private sector. In most cases the private sector can provide services to the public more efficiently and at less cost than the government can; however, this is not necessarily true in all cases.

This is an especially important concern here in the north where large distances, low populations, high costs, and little competition mean the private market is not always less costly and more efficient. Other governments around the world have been privatizing for a decade or more. While many of these initiatives succeeded in providing services to the public at low cost and greater efficiency, many others have failed miserably and ended up either costing more or resulting in reduced service to the public. Mr. Speaker, the government has to be careful not to

engage in privatization, for privatization sake. Privatization in and of itself is not always guaranteed to be the right thing to do with the service.

Here in the north there are many services that are best delivered by the government. These are services that either cost more for the clients, or might not be delivered at all in some communities. The proposed privatization of petroleum product delivery is a case in point. I understand the government is considering expressions of interest from businesses interested in taking over the service and will be developing options over the next couple of months. I urge the government to look carefully at this and other privatization initiatives. If service to Northerners would suffer or if privatization would permit unreasonable increases in the prices of petroleum products, then the initiative should not proceed.

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The government must include, no privatization, as one of their possible options. I am not against privatization, I am, however, against privatization without a sound rationale and well-developed implementation plan. Privatization initiatives must make sense and must not be done just because everyone else is doing it. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Members' statement, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Member's Statement On The Need To Replace The Baffin Regional Hospital

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Baffin Regional Hospital was built in 1962 and since then no major renovations have ever been done. Even though the population in Baffin region has doubled, the hospital is 34 years old and needs to be replaced. It serves 13 communities and approximately 13,000 people. It is the only hospital serving the Baffin region.

It is not acceptable to have this project delayed or cancelled in the agreement signed March 31, 1988, the Territorial Government took over the responsibility of health services for the Northwest Territories. Also, in which, the federal government promised to provide its share of \$25,000,000 for a new hospital to be located in Iqaluit.

Last year at the Baffin Leaders' Summit, in Iqaluit, last January, it passed two different motions to have this construction proceed, and the motions were unanimously passed.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my people in Amittuq, and other parts of the Baffin region I will keep this issue alive until we see some results in this greatly needed service for the Inuit in Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Evaloarjuk. Members' statements, Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement On The Need To Ensure the Provision of Essential Services When Making Budget Reductions

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is in regards to fairness, equity, and also in regards to the upcoming budget cuts that the Premier has mentioned to us and the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, we have to keep in mind that also there is social and economic problems that have arrived in regions such as the Mackenzie Delta, Inuvik region. What we have seen is a lot of programs which are essential to the economic well-being of my riding, slowly being deteriorated, such as the correctional facility that was earmarked for Aklavik, Fort Resolution.

That program has been eliminated and now we are hearing about the hospital in Inuvik which is beneficial to my riding, in regards to the Mackenzie Delta. We have seen that program being pushed off.

We have to some how take into account that we have to also look at the economic viability of how this government can also help those ridings that do not have an economic base, such as a diamond mine, large tourism industry and also that the infrastructure has to be developed in those ridings that do not have it.

In the case of the Inuvik hospital, the hospital was built in 1963, which is almost 33 years ago. The building was built approximately the same time Inuvik has been established. We have to take into account

that these facilities are needed, regardless of the cost that we are looking at. We approved an \$8,000,000 expansion to the RCMP facility in Yellowknife last year, which is presently being constructed.

We did not debate where that money was going to come from, we were able to find it, it was constructed. So I would like to ask this government and also the

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people of the Northwest Territories, that these essential services have to be constructed as scheduled, as laid out in the plan, and also agreed to between this government and the Government of Canada. We have to allow progress to proceed as scheduled and those resources have to be put back into place. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you Mr. Krutko. Members' statements. We have the Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement On The Involvement of Ordinary Members in Proposed Amalgamation Discussions

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Swift action immediately after election to avoid an unaccountable budget deficit. We all participate in the process of developing this year's budget, and considering the various initiatives brought forward by the Government. This kind of inclusive decision making demonstrates consensus government at it's best. While the process was not perfect, I believe we have come to a point where we can make decisions on the 1997-98 business plans and budget knowing that we have an excellent foundation to build on.

Now, after a number of consolidations and amalgamations of departments, there is a proposal for yet another amalgamation. This time the plan is to combine the NWT Housing Corporation with the Department of Transportation and Public Works and Services. These are the three most important arms on the Government in terms of building infrastructure in the Northwest Territories. While there are undoubtedly some sound reasons for amalgamating them, we still can not take such an important step without the full participation of this Assembly. That is why I was disturbed to hear the Honourable Premier

say that this amalgamation may proceed without a full debate.

Mr. Speaker, if such a thing is allowed to happen, when the government's fine words from earlier this year was about a common agenda and working together, how meaningless. The restructuring of the government is too important to pass off as casually as a minor policy change. This proposed amalgamation is worth it to fill an open debate in this House, and I expect the Honourable Premier and his cabinet colleagues to live up to a promise of a common agenda and provide opportunity for such a debate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger, Members' statement.

Member's Statement On Preparations For Division

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recently I arose to express my concerns that this government needs to make preparation for division of priority. Today I would like to expand on these concerns.

Mr. Speaker, we need to become much more pro-active in the work this government is doing. There are many ways we can do this. The Cabinet Division Committee should begin meeting regularly, it should set an aggressive agenda to ensure all outstanding tasks are addressed. This committee should be expanded to include two more ordinary members who could share the work and push the process along.

The Constitutional Working Group has been working on the constitutional development in the west, at the same time this Government's Division Secretariat has focused its attention on working with NIC and NTI to prepare for Nunavut.

I am pleased that there is work being done to get ready for Nunavut, however, western members often feel that the western part of division is not adequately recognized by the people working on division in the Government of the Northwest Territories. There needs to be a link between the efforts of the

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Constitutional Working Group and the Division Secretariat.

If this government can afford to run a Secretariat Responsible for Division, some of those resources should be designated to support the process in the west as well as the east.

Mr. Speaker, this Assembly has duly elected this government until April 1, 1999 when our eastern Members will no longer be members here. We do not want to wait until the final minute for division to consider issues. We need time to think about key components, of creating two new territories such as division of assets and liabilities and formula funding.

We do not want to be fighting east and west over the scraps left us by the federal government because we did not get our act together and decide how we want division to happen. It is up to us to chart the course for division so that we get there under control and get everything completed on time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, kindly, Mr. Miltenberger. Members' statements, Member for Inuvik, Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement On Funding For the Baffin and Inuvik Regional Hospitals

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Honourable Members, you have heard over the last couple of days about the situation with the funding for the Inuvik and Baffin regional hospitals. Mr. Speaker, I believe that this government has made a commitment to the people of the Inuvik and Baffin regions, when it signed the transfer agreement in 1988. Mr. Speaker, the Inuvik Regional Hospital, as we had heard was built in 1963, designed in the day when energy efficiency was not a high priority. It shows in the amount of O and M it requires to operate on a yearly basis. This existing facility according to the capital substantiation for 1996-97 states that it costs \$850,000 per year to operate.

Mr. Speaker, this amount counts for 6.5% of the Inuvik Regional Hospital budget. In these days of budget reduction and increasing pressures in existing budgets there could come a day when the health board will be required to shut sections of the hospital down. Mr. Speaker, this government has a commitment to the people of the Inuvik region now

we are requesting the appropriate Minister about this commitment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Members' statements. Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement On Concerns Regarding the Community Empowerment and Wellness Initiatives

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the major policy thrusts of this government is the twin towers of pain, community empowerment and the community transfer initiative. Mr. Speaker, in many respects the details of implementing this policy have not been well thought out. I personally believe there is a way for the government to save money, by downloading programs and services to the communities. Community empowerment is being marketed as a motherhood, an apple pie issue.

Give communities responsibility, let them run it, they know what communities want. Mr. Speaker, in these fiscally challenged times, what communities want is more resources, more money and more training, without adequate resources to back them up. If communities take on more operations and maintenance, infrastructure and program delivery, I fear, we will be setting these communities up to fail.

Yes, we should empower communities, Mr. Speaker, to make decisions for themselves, but empowerment is not just handing over the reigns and then abandoning all responsibility. Is it empowering our children to let them drive, if we just give them the car keys and tell them to go at it. That is not empowerment, to empower is to endow with the ability or power required for a purpose or task. We do not let anyone sit behind the wheel without

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training and testing. If community empowerment is to live up to its name, we have to remember the dictionary definition I have just quoted.

We must ensure that our communities have the ability to carry out the task that would be assigned to them. I am concerned that we are rushing too quickly to give the task to communities without empowering them with the ability to perform those tasks. I know the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and the departmental staff are working on training programs,

monitoring systems and so on, but these have to come before the transfer of responsibility, not afterwards. While I applaud the government's efforts to empower our communities, I want to see it done right. I want community empowerment to work. I am sure all of us want to see community empowerment work, but it will not work if we put the cart before the horse. We had to do the right things in the right order.

That is why I suggest that no further responsibilities be transferred to communities before the Members of this House, and the people of the North, are assured that the appropriate preparation has been completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Member's statement from North Slave, Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement On Rae Lakes Capital Needs Proposal

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the course of a few months the community of Rae Lakes has developed a proposal that will take care of capital needs of the community.

This proposal has taken into account all projects currently in five year capital plan under the Department of MACA will combine community office buildings, the outdoor recreation facility and arena project. It is intended to work this project on a block funding basis, and also save the Government approximately 11 percent of the current total projected budget. With the support of the community, Department of Resources and Wildlife Economic Development and Treaty 11 Council the community is proposing to deliver a community hall, office complex, golf course, a playground, and an arena which will better reflect the community's needs and aspirations.

This proposal is based on partnership with the government, First Nations Band Council, MACA, Resources Wildlife Economic Development and contribution expected from all parties.

If this project is given the green light to proceed we will save the government approximately over \$269,000. In our mind this seems to be the perfect example of community empowerment and fiscal responsibility at the community level. This project, however, may not get off the ground simply because

of the latest controversy that has risen regarding the capital project here in the House.

It is imperative this project proceed. Too much work at the community level has been done not to allow it to go ahead. As always time is the essence of this to proceed and I fear it will be all wasted if Rae Lakes cannot get the ministerial approval it needs. This would be a real letdown considering this Assembly continually states its support for community empowerment and fiscal responsibilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Rabesca. Member's statements, Mr. Henry. Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement On Concerns Regarding the Community Empowerment Initiative

MR. HENRY:

Mr. Speaker, recently the Standing Committee of this Assembly took the opportunity to review the mid-year progress of the government departments in meeting their objectives. Community empowerment is arguably the single government initiative that will have the biggest impact on how northerners relate to

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their governments, territorial and municipal.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for the principle of community empowerment. Yes, it will result in a further downsizing of territorial government presence in Yellowknife, as more responsibilities transferred to municipal governments, but I do not believe that will hurt Yellowknife significantly. Yellowknife will continue to prosper thanks to the industriousness and resourcefulness of the citizens.

Yellowknife already pays almost half the income tax collected from the N.W.T. and the Yellowknife business community is going to get healthier thanks to such initiatives as the BHP Project. I say this to make it clear that I do not see community empowerment as a Yellowknife against other communities issue.

The issue is whether our communities are ready for community empowerment. Municipal government,

both in concept, and actual implementation, is still very new and relatively undeveloped. I do not mean to pick on the constituency of my honourable colleague from Iqaluit, but the fiscal crisis by the town of Iqaluit a few years ago serves to prove my point.

Many of our communities are not yet at a stage where I at least am confident of their ability to manage greater responsibilities. I do not want to see assets transferred to communities before they are ready to properly maintain them. I do not want to see non-tax based communities given the power to borrow money before seeing assurances that they are capable of repaying the loans that they take out.

I recognize that we have many fine people serving on municipal councils and serving this House it should be responded to in a dignified manner with every effort made to provide adequate information. When this is not done, there is a perception of avoidance and then this House is brought into question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Members' statements, the honourable Member for Kivalliviq, Mr. O'Brien.

Member's Statement on Seriousness of Issues Raised in House

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when a Member puts forth a question or statement in this House, it is a serious question or statement and should be treated in a respectful manner. Too often, Mr. Speaker, we receive curt or flippant responses from certain Ministers. I would once again remind my honourable colleagues across the floor that this is still a consensus government. Mr. Speaker, every question asked in this Chamber should be answered if the information is available, unless a legal issue is at stake.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of this House, this Assembly, it is not my intention to become one of the Brady Bunch. Therefore, if my constituents raise certain issues with me, whether it is popular or not, my honourable friends across the floor, I will ask that question because that is why I am here. As I mentioned earlier, Mr. Speaker, when Members pose a question, he or she has the right to expect a serious answer. These are not personal questions, and they should not be treated, as they are in some cases, with

such disdain. Mr. Speaker, I will close by saying when a question or concern is raised by an Ordinary Member in this House, it should be responded to in a dignified manner, with every effort made to provide adequate information. When this is not done, there is a perception of avoidance, and then this House is brought into question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Members' statements, honourable member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement On City of Yellowknife Delegation Travelling To Japan To Promote Tourism

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak today on an issue that has been before the city council of Yellowknife.

The city of Takefu, Japan, recently approached the council and invited them to join them in a twinning program. Yellowknife council voted down the proposal saying it was a nice idea but it was too expensive. As a result business members and members of the tourist industry then asked the aldermen to revisit the issue and the decision.

Based on this expression of support and concern from the various groups, council decided to go ahead with the trip. Mr. Speaker, next month, a delegation led by the Mayor of Yellowknife will visit Takefu, Japan to officially commemorate and celebrate the twinning of Takefu with Yellowknife.

Seeing the northern lights in the winter sky is a very moving experience for many Japanese who find our northern lights fascinating, coming from a small industrialized country. Japanese visitors are also overwhelmed by the vast, unspoiled wilderness of the north. This trip to a northern twin city, to our twin city in Japan will encourage more visitors and awareness of the NWT as a tourist destination for Japanese visitors.

Mr. Speaker, I know that there have been some concerns expressed about what this visit might cost the city of Yellowknife, however, I prefer to see this as an investment not a cost, considering that, at present, about 1,500 Japanese visit Yellowknife every winter, mainly to see the aurora and about 17 local jobs are directly created as a result of these visits. On top of that, the tourists spend money on various other

outdoor experiences, purchases of arts and crafts, souvenirs, hotels and airplane trips. In fact, it is estimated that each winter these Japanese tourists spend about 1.8 million dollars in the NWT while they are here. Since 1989, Bill Tait of Raven Tours, a visionary local businessman, has worked hard to develop a market for Japanese tourists wanting to see the aurora borealis. By 1994, it was predicted that the Japanese tourists visiting the NWT would double in two years, and that is exactly what has happened.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ootes, your allotted time has expired.

MR. OOTES:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. You have unanimous consent.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, Japanese tourists in their bright red snowsuits are a familiar sight in the winter season in Yellowknife, and many Yellowknife restaurants now have Japanese menus, as well as seeing what some call the greatest show on earth in the northern sky. Japanese tourists to Yellowknife can also fly to view caribou, take rides in snowmobiles and dogsleds or partake in an outdoor activity, cultural experience on Prosperous Lake. Planned for the coming season are some visits to Snare Lake by Japanese tourists. Increasingly, Japanese tourists are showing up in other northern destinations in the NWT, as well as rafting on the Nahanni and sports hunting from Resolute Bay.

However, this very specialized market can not be taken for granted. The NWT is competing with Alaska, where about 4,000 Japanese come to view the aurora every year, and also Norway, Finland and now Churchill, Manitoba and Fort McMurray in Alberta are also competing for aurora visitors amongst the 500,000 Japanese who visit Canada every year. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish to congratulate the Mayor and Council and the City of Yellowknife and the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic

Development of the NWT, for the recent commitment of support for this official visit to our twin city in Japan to further encourage our growing Japanese tourist season and I congratulate the Yellowknife business community that supports this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Members' Statement, Members' Statement, Mr. Morin.

Member's Statement On Support for the Community Empowerment Initiative

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of the riding of Tu Nedhe, which I represent, that is Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e. Nine years ago, approximately nine years ago, October 5, I believe it was, the people elected me to represent those communities and the clear mandate the people in those communities gave to me back nine years ago was that they wanted to make the decisions at the community level. They were tired of decisions being made in Yellowknife, that was the bottom line.

People never elected members to this legislative assembly to come here to keep the status quo, to come here to only protect government jobs and not turn over some responsibility and authority to communities. People elected me as their MLA to come here to make sure that we move the decision making back to our communities where it rightfully belongs.

Our communities are willing and able, Mr. Speaker, to make decisions on their own, they are willing and able to take on that task. And let me make it clear to my communities as well as other people in the Northwest Territories, it is not downloading or offloading as some think it may be.

Back in the early seventies I can remember when I was sitting on the Deninoo community council back in Fort Resolution, we happen to get one or two members on that council. In those days those councils, the communities councils were made up of nurses, or teachers or RCMP officers that were all transient to the community. Those were the people that made the decisions in our communities.

Now, I remember very clearly sitting in the Slave River saw mill office where one of these transients who was making it very clear to me, and excuse my

language, Mr. Speaker, but he says "You Indians are not capable of running your own community. You are not capable of picking up your own garbage, you are not capable of cleaning your streets." We do that today, that was 20 years ago.

But we are now capable not only of picking up our garbage, cleaning our own streets, we are capable of running our own businesses, running our own programs in the community and running our own communities.

And the communities fully know there is going to be less dollars. My community knows that. But they would prefer to make the decision where the cuts happen in their own community, not let Yellowknife make it, so that is what community empowerment means to my communities, Mr. Speaker, and let me assure everybody here, Fort Resolution, Lutsel K'e are ready to move ahead and make decisions on their own. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Honourable Mr. Morin. Members' Statements.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Item number 4, returns to oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 353-13(3): Internship Programs in Small Communities

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. O'Brien on May 29, 1996.

Mr. Speaker, there is no specific Department of Education, Culture, and Employment Student Internship Program.

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Last summer all student summer employment in Yellowknife was coordinated through the Personnel Secretariat. In other communities it was coordinated through individual departments.

There are however a number of school experiences that are available to students, which can assist them in preparing for a career. With the assistance of education staff and their parents, all students in Grades 9 to 12 must develop a career and program plan. This plan is revised regularly as a student's career goals change to help them identify the senior secondary courses they need to prepare for their chosen careers.

Students' career and program plans may include some career specific training available through the career and technology studies curriculum. Career and technology studies is a new curriculum which is being phased in at the junior and senior secondary school levels. It will be fully implemented in 1997-98.

Career and technology courses are available in every community and the district education authority and education staff in each community determine which courses will be offered based on the needs and plans of their students.

For example, in Qitiliq School in Arviat this year there are a number of career and technology studies courses being offered such as baking basics, Planning a Venture, Word Processing, and Introduction to Construction.

The Schools North Apprenticeship Program is also a program which is accredited under the Career and Technology Studies curriculum. Students interested in a career in the trades can participate in this program and divide their time between academics and school and trades training. They also receive time credits as registered apprentices.

This program was initiated last year and was promoted this fall. School counsellors and career development officers are working together to identify students and employers to implement this program.

There is also a program called "Take Your Kids to Work". This is a national program in which a student job-shadows a parent for a day.

As grades are extended in communities, the Department, district and divisional education authorities, other education representatives, parents and community members are working to ensure that students have access to the courses and support they need to achieve their career goals.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Returns to oral questions.
Returns to oral question.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

Item number 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Dave Talbot, he is a regional vice-president for Yellowknife for Union of Northern Workers.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you Mr. Henry. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

I would like to recognize those other people up in the gallery that have not been recognized, especially all the ladies up in the gallery.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to also recognize someone from the Union of Northern Workers, Mr. Ben McDonald, who has been here diligently for all the days we have been sitting. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery.

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Item number 6, oral questions, Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 438-13(3): "Read For Fifteen" Day - Literacy Week

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. He made a Minister's statement yesterday about this week being Literacy Week. I understand, that today, Wednesday, October 9 has special significance with something called "Read for 15". I was wondering if the Minister could elaborate on exactly what that is, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Dent

Return To Question 438-13(3): "Read For Fifteen" Day - Literacy Week

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. "Read for 15" is an annual event sponsored by the NWT Literacy Council. Each year during NWT Literacy Week, the Literacy Council challenges everybody in the NWT to spend 15 minutes reading on one particular day. Schools, offices, families, community groups are then asked the number of people in their organization who have read. The numbers are tallied by the council.

Last year over 11,000 people in the Northwest Territories participated in this event, reading for 15 minutes. I would like to encourage all Members today, at the break, to spend 15 minutes reading and if they will report to me after the break, I will submit those numbers today to the Literacy Council to see if we cannot help this community achieve its challenge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 439-13(3): Formula For the Staffing of Health Centres

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr Speaker, my question today is to my good friend Mr. Ng, Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng, what is the formula that is used for the staffing of health centres to make sure the health centres are staffed with an adequate number of registered nurses? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Minister for Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 439-13(3): Formula For the Staffing of Health Centres

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if there is a formula, per se. I think staffing of health centres in regions are undertaken, right now by the board staff within those regions to determine where they, the human resource requirements are and they put their emphasis, then finalize their funding and provide nurses basically on those needs as they see fit, and place them in the communities, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary. Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 439-13(3): Formula For the Staffing of Health Centres

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell this House how casual, or part-time or term nurses are hired, through what process. I understand it is through some form of an agency in the Keewatin.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Honourable Minister Ng.

Further Return To Question 439-13(3): Formula For the Staffing of Health Centres

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, regional health boards have the responsibility for staffing the health centres in their region and in their board administration, so if the honourable Member wants, I could find out that information. I know the Keewatin does contract out a lot of their nursing services from an agency which I believe is based in Churchill, however, I will confirm that and advise

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the Member accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 439-13(3): Formula for the Staffing of Health Centres

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister further agree to review the fact that it is my understanding that, there is a significant charge when using these agencies. If these agencies were not used, possibly the money could be used to increase the salaries and benefits of nurses so that we could further attract more permanent nurses in the north, and particularly to the Keewatin? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, honourable Member for Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 439-13(3): Formula for the Staffing of Health Centres

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member is correct, when you use short term contract types of professionals, regardless of what field it is, the costs are significantly higher than if you had permanent staff, I know in respect to the issue of staffing of nurses throughout the Northwest Territories, it is an issue that we are aware of and we continue to work with health boards, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral question. Mr. Roland.

Question 440-13(3): Commitment For Inuvik and Baffin Hospitals

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I get into my question that is leading from my Member's statement to put everybody back in the regular state I guess, I would like to send greetings back home to my wife and children.

Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Will the Minister make firm the commitment to the people of the Inuvik region to see the hospital go ahead as planned?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 440-13(3): Commitment for Inuvik and Baffin Hospitals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will make the commitment to do my utmost to ensure that the projects Inuvik and in Iqaluit go forward in as timely a fashion as possible, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral question, first supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 440-13(3): Commitment for Inuvik and Baffin Hospitals

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Knowing the funding situation that we have heard of over the last couple of days, will the Minister look at alternative ways of funding the replacement of the Inuvik and Baffin hospitals? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Honourable Minister, Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 440-13(3): Commitment for Inuvik and Baffin Hospitals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would look at any alternatives that could assist in bringing these projects on-line, Mr. Speaker, and recognize the importance of them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, second supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 440-13(3): Commitment for Inuvik and Baffin Hospitals

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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Will the Minister include the aboriginal groups that are involved in the area in the possible alternative ways of

funding this which, in turn, would lead to more community empowerment? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, the honourable Minister, Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 440-13(3): Commitment for Inuvik and Baffin Hospitals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly if there are proposals for the possibility of maybe private financing services, if that were decided to be an avenue to explore and to proceed with, certainly aboriginal groups or any groups for that matter who would have the dollars to invest, would be considered towards investing in these initiatives, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, oral question. Mr. Krutko.

Question 441-13(3): Status of Negotiations Re: BHP Benefits

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier in regards to the negotiations with the federal government, with BHP and the aboriginal groups in regards to trying to finalize a benefit agreement and, also, the northern accord process, in regards to where those two processes are to date?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, the Honourable Minister and House Leader, Mr. Premier.

Return to Question 441-13(3): Status of Negotiations Re: BHP Benefits

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Presently, on the northern accord process we do have people working on that whole issue, drafting a framework agreement and, hopefully, that will be completed fairly soon. Then we can go to the aboriginal groups and the aboriginal summit, approximately in mid-November, and then we would have to re-draft that after Cabinet has approved it and then take it back to the aboriginal groups. Then, hopefully, by late November or December we will be

able to discuss this issue with Members of this Legislative Assembly and then on to the Minister responsible, Minister Irwin.

As far as community benefit agreements between BHP and the aboriginal groups, they are pretty close to being finished, I think. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Premier. Oral question supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 441-13(3): Status of Negotiations Re: BHP Benefits

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary, in regards to the two processes that are presently in progress and one is almost completed and the other one is just being started, a concern I have in regards to the two processes is that in regards to the obligation at our end, land claim agreements in regards to the northern accord, that there is a process to negotiate benefit agreements, but will these negotiations with BHP and the federal government to date be the precedent to be set for those other negotiations? Will that set the precedent for the other aboriginal groups in regards to retaining benefits through negotiations prior to the start of the northern accord? My concern is will that be the process that we are going to have to follow once the northern accords starts, through the conclusion of those negotiations, will that set the precedent for the other groups once they start the northern accord?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Premier.

Further Return to Question 441-13(3): Status of Negotiations Re: BHP Benefits

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. The negotiations between the aboriginal groups and BHP are separate processes completely, we are trying to assist and facilitate as a government and help both sides as much as possible, and I don't see it as a

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precedent set in a process that would flow on to a northern accord or any other developments in the

Northwest Territories. On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, they are also negotiating a social-economic agreement with BHP and I see that as a start to being able to set some ground rules for development of the North for the government to follow as well as mining companies to look at, but that would be developed over the time prior to us negotiating a northern accord or final negotiations, with the federal government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral question, second supplementary. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 441-13(3): Status of Negotiations Re: BHP Benefits

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. In regards to the whole process of consultation and also with the two parties that are presently under negotiations, has the Premier looked at there being a possibility of a conflict between the two processes which may set the tone for the outcome of one negotiations and over above the other aboriginal groups who have not been able to negotiate to date? The Accord which was the process that they agreed to in 1988 when the agreement was signed between the Government of Canada and the Dene-Metis, will the Premier state if that was considered when these processes were enacted?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Premier.

Further Return To Question 441-13(3): Status of Negotiations Re: BHP Benefits

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. No, I understand what the member is saying, we are moving ahead with the negotiations on the Northern Accord with the Aboriginal Groups in general, and in no way would this negotiation on socio-economic agreement or this community benefit agreement set a precedent towards the negotiations of the Northern Accord. We are dealing with all aboriginal groups with an even playing field on the whole negotiations and we will carry out with that with the same thought in mind. I thank the member for raising that issue.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, final supplementary. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 441-13(3): Status of Negotiations Re: BHP Benefits

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. The final supplementary is that the statement from the Premier, could he keep this House in that, keep us in touch on those negotiations and also the efforts to inform the other aboriginal groups who are involved in the Northern Accord, who may not be presently involved in the negotiation, training of BHP, the federal government and this government for social and economic benefit, so that they can see if there is an overlap between those two agreements and they have not allowed those groups to be consulted prior to anything becoming public in regards to the outcome of those negotiations, so they are informed and be consulted on what the outcome of those negotiations are, so it is sort of, you can blend the two processes together, so they are aware of what is happening in each Cabinet. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Premier.

Further Return To Question 441-13(3): Status of Negotiations Re: BHP Benefits

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. By all means, I will do that and once again I thank the Member for raising that issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral question. Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Picco.

Question 442-13(3): Regulations for Rental Rate Increases

MR. PICCO:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is for the Minister of Justice, Mr. Ng. Can the Minister inform me what regulations or rules are in place to

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guide the increase in rental rates? For example, a rent that goes from \$500 per month to \$1200 or 120 percent increase, in less than a three month period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Minister for Justice, honourable Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 442-13(3): Regulations for Rental Rate Increases

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I do not have that information with me. I will commit to finding that out and advising the honourable Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is taking the question under advisement. Oral question, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 442-13(3): Regulations for Rental Rate Increases

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, did the honourable Minister say he was taking that question as notice? If the GNWT has actually a regulation or law in place guiding the regulation for rent increases?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Minister for Justice, Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 442-13(3): Regulations for Rental Rate Increases

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I did not take it as notice, I said that I would find out the information and advise the member accordingly on what he requested. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 442-13(3): Regulations for Rental Rate Increases

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, I guess we have kind of got to the point now where we do have this regulation in place except we are not sure what it really says, so my supplementary question is, who enforces the regulations concerning the increase in rental rates? Do we have a rental officer, for example?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Minister for Justice, Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 442-13(3): Regulations for Rental Rate Increases

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr Speaker, yes, there is a rentals officer for the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 442-13(3): Regulations for Rental Rate Increases

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, over the past several weeks, as Mr. Todd has mentioned earlier in his statement also, there have been several very drastic rent increases in my riding with regards to housing. The reason for my questions, of course, are to find out exactly what are in place so my constituents in my constituency will know. I am not trying to be flippant in my questions.

So, my final supplementary, if the Minister will allow me, is, is the rental officer that is based here in Yellowknife, does he or she do investigations all over the Northwest Territories, so that, the constituents in my riding would be able to contact said person, said position, put in complaints about these rental increases which the Minister has already told us there is regulations in place? So that is my question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister for Justice, Mr. Ng.

Further Return TO Question 442-13(3): Regulations for Rental Rate Increases

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the rental officer has jurisdiction for the entire Northwest Territories, but, like I said earlier, I will find out the correct information and advise the honourable member accordingly.

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Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, oral question. Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

Question 443-13(3): Breast Cancer Detection Information

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. Yesterday I spoke about the need for a program to be developed to detect breast cancer here in the Northwest Territories. In a three year period, between 1991 and 1994, some eighty people were detected of which, thirty three people died.

I wonder if the Minister could tell me if the territorial government will consider developing information that is culturally appropriate on breast cancer in the aboriginal languages for distribution throughout the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Minister for Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return TO Question 443-13(3): Breast Cancer Detection Information

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department recently approved the terms of reference for a N.W.T. working group on breast cancer screening and the main mandate of this working group is to provide recommendations to the Department and to regional health boards regarding breast screening measures, Mr. Speaker. Also I would like to advise the honourable member that throughout the health centres, that are under the auspices of Well Women Health Clinics, that people from the community are given instructions on self-

examinations as the preliminary sources of identifying potential problems so there is some work being done in this area and we are looking to expand this program, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ng. First supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 443-13(3): Breast Cancer Detection Information

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to hear that the Minister states that he will look at expanding this program. I wonder if he will also consider including in that program an educational program to teach the nurses and the people in the communities the methodologies of detecting breast cancer.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, the Honourable Minister for Health, Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 443-13(3): Breast Cancer Detection Information

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would take it that the working group on breast cancer screening would identify those issues, if they are not already identified and within our existing system, so I will certainly keep it in mind when I look forward to receipt of this report, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, second supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 443-13(3): Breast Cancer Detection Information

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has pointed out that there is a working group in existence on this. I wonder if the Minister could tell me what the mandate of the working group is, in respect to, who they answer to and what work they are undertaking?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, there are a couple of questions, Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 443-13(3): Breast Cancer Detection Information

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier the mandate of the working group is to develop recommendations to the department and to regional health boards regarding a breast cancer screening initiatives so that we can try to initiate programs, or improve existing programs, to address this area, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, final Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

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Supplementary To Question 443-13(3): Breast Cancer Detection Information

MR. OOTES:

Yes, the working group obviously has instructions to prepare a report. I wonder if the Minister could tell us when he may expect that report to be issued.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 443-13(3): Breast Cancer Detection Information

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the terms of reference for this working group were approved on August 25th, so I do not know in what timeframe they are supposed to report back. I would think that it would certainly be within the next few months, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Henry.

Question 444-13(3): Plans For Community Empowerment Initiative

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Could

the Minister briefly tell this House what the next three months hold in store regarding the progress of community empowerment and transfers of responsibilities to municipalities?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madame Thompson.

Return To Question 444-13(3): Plans For Community Empowerment Initiative

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Member clarify his question again, please.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, would the Honourable Member clarify the question before the Minister? Thank you.

Supplementary To Question 444-13(3): Plans For Community Empowerment Initiative

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will certainly try to do that. I understand that there are many initiatives that are being transferred to communities. Can you give us a brief explanation of what those are and how you propose to go about them?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. There were a couple of questions. Madame Thompson.

Further Return To Question 444-13(3): Plans For Community Empowerment Initiative

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have done presentations on community empowerment to regional meetings across the Territories. It has been well received at the regional level and also at the community level.

I have visited over 23 communities across the territories and there has been block funding agreements with Hay River, Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Inuvik because they want more flexibility with their capital dollars. We have progressed very well with communities that want to have block funding in their communities and some communities have also taken on GLO, those are the government officers in the communities they have, we have transferred

those over to the communities that want that responsibility.

We also have transferred the land administrators into the communities in Nunavut because of the land claim, we needed these lands programs officers at the municipal level. So, we have transferred those over also and there are communities out there who are willing to take on more responsibilities.

It is progressing well with the communities and we have told all of the communities that we have presented to all the regional meetings that we have presented to, we have told them that this is an option, we are not forcing it down on them, they do not have to do it, it is up to them. Hay River had wanted the block funding agreement because they want more

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flexibility with that and Yellowknife has also done that, it has done well with the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Honourable Minister. Second supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 444-13(3): Plans For Community Empowerment Initiative

Mr. HENRY:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I understand that a comprehensive review of municipal finances is due to begin very shortly and that the Minister is expecting a report with recommendations for reforms by April 1, 1997. Could the Minister confirm that this is indeed factual?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Minister, Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 444-13(3): Plans For Community Empowerment Initiative

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is happening along with the municipal legislation review, that I will be presenting probably in November. We are reviewing the financing of the municipal governments. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 444-13(3): Plans For Community Empowerment Initiative

MR. HENRY:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister also confirm that the recommended reforms from this review are due to be implemented by April 1, 1998?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 444-13(3): Plans For Community Empowerment Initiative

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I do not have that detail right now, but I do believe it is progressing very well and when we did the presentation to the infrastructure committee, that is probably the date we gave them and that is probably right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions Member for North Slave, Mr. Rabesca.

Question 445-13(3): Rae Lakes' Request For Meeting With Minister On Capital

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in light of my Member's statement today I feel compelled to ask the Minister responsible for Department of MACA. As I am sure you are aware, the community of Rae Lakes is very frustrated by a lack of correspondence regarding these capital projects and therefore are requesting to have a meeting to present their proposal to the Minister to find out direction they go.

Would the Minister be willing to set up a meeting with the community of Rae Lakes in order to get a fair direction to taking part in these important capital projects they are concerned about? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Thompson.

Return To Question 445-13(3): Rae Lakes' Request For Meeting With Minister On Capital

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the options that the communities have is block funding and before the block funding agreements the GNWT used to provide communities with lots of little pots of money for each program and lots of little rules on how to spend it, because the communities might not be educated enough to look after their own funding, but after the block funding agreements, the answer that we can give to those communities is that the GNWT provides communities with one big block of money for capital projects like I said earlier, Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Inuvik and Hay River have taken that option.

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Now with the motion that was put forward by Mr. O'Brien, Motion 16-13(3) Policy Concerning Capital Projects, anything that is over \$250,000 has to go through the committee, I do not know if their block funding would be over \$250,000 or below \$250,000, we will have to take with the community but it will have to go through the committee, because people might think they might fail, I do not have any guarantee on the time line to work with the community on the options for the member. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Rabesca.

Supplementary To Question 445-13(3): Rae Lakes' Request For Meeting With Minister On Capital

MR. RABESCA:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask another question regarding the Minister willing to set up a meeting with community of Rae Lakes in order to fully directly take part regarding this important project that they are concerned about.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, the Honourable Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 445-13(3): Rae Lakes' Request For Meeting With Minister On Capital

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will be talking with the community, but it might have to go through the committees in order to be approved. The community might be one of the communities that the committees are concerned about with their finances, I do not know but I will direct my department to talk with the community right away, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, oral questions. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Question 446-13(3): Responsibility For Emergency Response to Grise Fiord

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister. I stated the fact that we do have an emergency in Grise Fiord with a shipment of which I am asking the Premier now, I would like to know who would be responsible for the shipment of the goods going to Grise Fiord. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mrs. Thompson.

Return To Question 446-13(3): Responsibility For Emergency Response to Grise Fiord

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think I understand what you are talking about. I am directing my staff to treat this as an emergency, and right now we are looking into it and I will let you know as soon as possible, as soon as I can. We talked about this earlier on this afternoon, and this is already being treated as an emergency by the staff. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Question 447-13(3): Impact of Staff Housing Sale on Students

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am directing this to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, last night there was a phone-in show on television in Iqaluit, and they said that the government will no longer be

providing staff housing and the comments were that the government was no longer involved in housing issues. The students are going to be short of housing. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

At a time when the government is selling houses, first to the employees, and then the other housing changes affect students of Arctic College who will need to complete their education in order to take employment within the government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 447-13(3): Impact of Staff Housing Sale on Students

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, thank you. I think that the concern is

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with the larger houses, with respect to the current housing that we are utilizing for Arctic College students in Iqaluit. If that is the case these students are in leased housing and we are in these discussions right now with the Department of Education to determine the appropriate course of action that will ensure that those students who are currently in housing will remain in housing. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Supplementary To Question 447-13(3): Impact of Staff Housing Sale on Students

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is also directed to the Minister of Finance. Can the Minister confirm that the majority of jobs that were cut will be refilled by Inuit of Nunavut?

Thank you, the question, this is another, I will be recognizing another, it is a different question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. O'Brien.

Question 448-13(3): Status of Staff Transfer from Rankin Inlet

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Speaker, this question is for the Minister Responsible for Housing, can the Minister advise this House as to the status of the transfer of employees from the Rankin sub-office to the regional office in Arviat for the N.W.T. Housing Corporation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Minister of Housing, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 448-13(3): Status of Staff Transfer from Rankin Inlet

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the planned transfer of the Housing Corporation staff to Arviat from Rankin has been in the books for quite some time and is still in the plans. However at this time as the Premier stated yesterday there is a possibility of amalgamation and until those plans are firmed up the planned move is presumably on hold.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 448-13(3): Status of Staff Transfer from Rankin Inlet

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister confirm whether just myself received the letter to the effect that this transfer is taking place in the next short while and also if the Hamlet of Arviat received such a letter to confirm that the transfer was, indeed, taking place?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister for N.W.T. Housing Corporation, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 448-13(3): Status of Staff Transfer from Rankin Inlet

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, some time ago I instructed the President of the Housing Corporation to inform the affected M.L.A.'s of the planned transfer of the employees so all the M.L.A.'s were informed. I am not certain if the letter also went to the Hamlet. As I stated before that

was shortly before the direction by Cabinet to look at a possible amalgamation.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 448-13(3): Status of Staff Transfer from Rankin Inlet

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first I hear of this delay and I will, before I ask further questions, I will check and confirm to see if indeed the Hamlet and the mayor of Arviat did receive confirmation that the transfer was to take place on a certain date. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. You have no questions, do you a question, but no question. Thank you.

Oral question, Mr. Steen.

Question 449-13(3): Communities' Status for Block Funding

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MR. STEEN:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question today, Mr. Speaker, is directed to the Minister of MACA.

Mr. Speaker we heard the Minister say that there are some communities that are not educated enough to handle a large block of money. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to us how many of those communities that might be. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Thompson.

Return To Question 449-13(3): Communities' Status For Block Funding

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Just to correct the Member that I did not say that the communities are uneducated, I said that is the feeling I am getting from the regular Members that they are scared that these communities are going to fail with their finances. To

me, everybody is able to take care of their own finances in the community so everybody in the territories with proper training, with proper resources and the tools, can look after themselves.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 449-13(3): Communities' Status for Block Funding

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Speaker could we get a quote from the Hansard, as to what the Minister did say. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Point of order, Mr. Krutko.

Mr. Krutko, would you please stand and make your point.

MR. KRUTKO:

Point of order. The question was raised by Mr. Steen to find that information. Will you stop the clock in regards to time that is left for question period?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I am informed that you have no point of order because I have not responded to Mr. Steen's question.

I believe there was no question raised. If honourable Mr. Steen wants to raise an issue he will have to raise the point of order. Or wait until tomorrow when the Hansard is ready for Members' reading.

Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 449-13(3): Communities' Status For Block Funding

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will wait until I read the Hansard tomorrow.

In any case, as a supplementary Mr. Speaker, the Minister has indicated that there are some communities that are not financially good standing at this point. She has also indicated that communities

are at different levels and some have agreed to accept community empowerment. We have heard also, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister has stated that communities are very receptive of this, community empowerment. Could I ask the Minister, how many communities have not accepted community empowerment?

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Madam Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 449-13(3): Communities' Status For Block Funding

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. As one of the Members from Iqaluit said he does not accept community empowerment in principle, but we do not have a word for principle in Inuktitut, so I do not know where principle begins or ends in his case. It might be that he does not agree with community empowerment. I cannot tell the member the communities have not accepted community empowerment initiatives. I just know that for a long time, the past 100 years, community people have been saying they want to

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take on more control of their lives, and the programs in their communities, and that is community empowerment. I could not say which ones did not want community empowerment at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable member for Iqaluit, point of privilege, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my members talked about community empowerment, but the question from the honourable Member from Nunakput had nothing to do with what I had to say. It was a direct question to the Minister. My point of privilege is that she used me as an example and I had no chance to recourse her reply.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, I am informed that there is no point of privilege in this case because the honourable Member's right has not been infringed upon by other Members. It is more or less a point of debate.

Oral questions, final supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 449-13(3): Communities' Status for Block Funding

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not trying to infringe on Mr. Picco's members statement.

---Laughter

I would like to ask the honourable Minister if she could be more definite in her description of how many communities have accepted community empowerment, is there some way, does the department have some way of judging how much the communities want it, how much they have accepted it, and that was basically my first question, Mr. Speaker. Are there some communities that have not accepted it?

In other words, is there some way the department has of identifying how much the communities want this community empowerment and how much they have agreed to accept, so that the House could then get an idea of what levels communities wish to proceed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mrs. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 449-13(3): Communities' Status for Block Funding

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

I can say that in the Baffin region, with the fifteen communities at the regional leadership meeting there was a motion passed that they would like community empowerment to proceed. The motion was moved by Joe Kunuk the mayor of Iqaluit.

I have been to the Keewatin region leadership meeting where there are seven communities and they have said to proceed with the presentations on community empowerment and they have asked me and the department that they would like programs to be transferred under the municipal government and I

have had communities from the west asking for more block funding and also, transfer of programs.

In the Inuvik region, the regional organization is looking at transfer of programs also. I can find the information out for the member, from the department and I will get back to him. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Madam Minister. Oral question Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 450-13(3): Importance of Planning for Division

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for FMBS. So that I do not feel like a voice in the wilderness over here, I would like the Minister to give this House an indication as to the importance of division in his estimation at this point. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Honourable member, Minister for Financial Management Board, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 450-13(3): Importance of Planning for Division

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am going to say that he is not a damsel in distress

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distress but that is the wrong term. Mr. Speaker, I would think it would be fair to say from the time this Assembly was elected that there were four key priorities. One was balancing the budget, one was the division and constitutional development of the Territories in particular the Western Constitutional Development, and of course an accord on economic action plan that we needed.

So, I think, to answer my honourable colleague clearly and unequivocally, we place an inordinate amount of priority on division and also on the fact that there has been significant movement with respect to the development of a constitution in the Western territory, and that I would suggest to my colleagues in the House here that, as we move forward on this initiative aggressively, I think there is going to be an inordinate

amount of work to be done. An inordinate amount of leadership is going to have to be provided as we move forward with the difficult questions and issues that are going to unfold as division and as a Western constitution is debated. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I have to correct myself - Chairman of Financial Management Board. Mr. Miltenberger, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 450-13(3): Importance of Planning for Division

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister be willing to consider expanding the division committee by two more ordinary MLAs in order to help with this inordinate amount of work that we are going to be facing? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Chairman of the Financial Management Board, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 450-13(3): Importance of Planning for Division

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Well, the short answer to that, although I do not like to give short answers, obviously, is that yes, we would be prepared to give consideration to that, subject to Cabinet approval.

I mean, the whole concept and logic behind this is to involve as many members as possible as we move forward, as I said, on the difficult issues that division and constitutional development as it unfolds and as it takes place. So the desire of myself as Chair of the Division committee along with my colleague, Mr. Arlooktoo and others, is that we try to bring as many people into the decision making as possible in the early stages, and I would take it under consideration to discuss this matter with the Premier and the Cabinet and report back to my colleague as quickly as I can on expansion of the, of the division committee.

I think it is also important to say, and I have been corresponding with Mr. Antoine who is the chair of the Constitutional Development Committee, that we need some linkages between those two committees as

well, because as we have said on a consistent basis, it is the dividing of two territories, not one. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 450-13(3): Importance of Planning for Division

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. My supplementary to the Minister is in regards to this committee, now that we have expanded it, would the Minister also commit to having it start to meet and set an aggressive agenda?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Chairman of the Financial Management Board, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 450-13(3): Importance of Planning for Division

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you. When my honourable colleague talks about expanding, I assume he is talking about the existing two members, and that I still have to discuss

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the matter of expansion of an additional two members. Now I am fairly confident we will reach an agreement there.

The division review committee will be meeting tomorrow I believe. I agree with my honourable colleague that we need to meet on a more regular basis. We need to develop an agenda that is achievable, I think that is important. And we need to move aggressively on that agenda, keeping in mind there are a number of other players as it relates to the division, etcetera, and I would be only too happy to accelerate any additional meetings that the committee sees fit to put into place and it is on the agenda for discussion tomorrow at the division committee meeting. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 450-13(3): Importance of Planning for Division

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, or I mean Mr. Speaker, I am sorry. My final supplementary to the Minister is in regards

(PORTION UNCLEAR)

HON. JOHN TODD:

...March, 1999. I think it would be fair to say that are the elected representative of the territories, however, I think in the division issue there is an agreement within the Nunavut accord, NTI will play a significant role, I think it is fair to say that we have acknowledged that, in fact, I am, as the Minister of Finance working very closely with the secretary-treasurer, Miss Delancy as it relates to the form of financing.

I think it would also be fair, as we sit in the House today, we have to fund a mechanism to bring in our other colleagues in the West, and that is something we are trying to work out between Mr. Antoine and myself and this whole issue of dividing the territories into two new territories has to encompass, if it is going to be successful, as many as, if you want of the political players, no matter what there standing is, as possible, and I am sure my honourable colleague would agree with that. And that is some of the objective of our strategy, it is an important and very time consuming issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Baffin Central. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 451-13(3): Status of Proposed Adult Education Centre in Clyde River

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Good evening, my colleagues, this is not my main question, I am going to be placing this question to the Honourable Mr. Dent, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I have been directing this question to him for about a year now in regard to adult education centre in Clyde River, I asked him during the Standing Committee as well as we had our last session, and when we had a meeting during the session, the adult education centre in Clyde River is what I am asking, how have we been working on the building of the Adult Education Centre in Clyde River?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, the Honourable Minister for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent

Return To Question 451-13(3): Status of Proposed Adult Education Centre in Clyde River

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker in the past I have made a commitment to the member that this capital project would remain in the plans and we would work very hard to find a way to build a facility that met the needs of the community and the college.

There have been meetings in the community with representatives from the college, public works, the district education authority, as well as the adult educator. Agreement has been arrived that the facility that was originally planned for the community would be too small. It is our intention to try and find the funds within the capital plan to provide a facility that will suit the needs of the community, and one that

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can be expanded. Mr. Speaker I am confident that the department is working diligently toward this end and when the capital plan comes forward at the next budget that we will be able to demonstrate some success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Enuaraq.

Supplementary To Question 451-13(3): Status of Proposed Adult Education Centre in Clyde River

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. What you have stated earlier, maybe you can communicate that with the education committee at the time of this communication.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 451-13(3): Status of Proposed Adult Education Centre in Clyde River

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am planning to send the Member a letter outlining what our hoped for plans are, and that letter should go out today, in

fact, and I will be sure to send a copy to the local education authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary. Mr. Enuaraq.

Supplementary To Question 451-13(3): Status of Proposed Adult Education Centre in Clyde River

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to my question, I received a letter from the local education authority that they had received a letter stating that the education centre will be cancelled, is that a correct statement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent

Further Return To Question 451-13(3): Status of Proposed Adult Education Centre in Clyde River

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my first reply to the Member, the project remains in our capital plan. Of course, the capital plan is subject to review by the Standing Committee and this Legislature and we have not yet finalized our capital plans for next year, but I expect that we will be able to deal with the community's needs and am hopeful that the project can proceed as planned, next year.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The time for question period is over. We will take a short break and resume.

--- SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

...replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Petitions, eleven, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Henry.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would seek unanimous consent to return to agenda item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The member for Yellowknife South is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Do we have any nays? There are no nays, you have unanimous consent, Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize seven members of the FAS community team that are in the visitors' gallery. They were responsible for producing the pamphlet and posters on the FAS/FAE project. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, welcome to the Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Reports of committees on the review of bills.

Item 13, tabling of documents, Mr. Henry.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

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MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table this poster, Tabled Document 85-13(3), this pamphlet on FAS/FAE and a strategy for presentation to the Department of Health and Social Services on methods of dealing with FAS/FAE in the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a letter I received, Tabled Document 86-13(3), on October 8th, 1996 from Mr. Doug MacLean, interim president of the Baffin School Administrators Council which deals with their concerns regarding this government's housing policy developments and the impacts on teachers and other school staff in the Baffin region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two documents.

Firstly, the letter, Tabled Document 87-13(3), which is sent to all MLAs. Ten residents of Fort McPherson in regards to the Ti'oonih Healing Society. The program in regards to the communities asking this government to continue to maintain and sustain the operation with funding.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents, tabling of documents. Notices of motions, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills, second reading of bills.

Consideration in 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), Bills 17 and 19. With Mr. Steen in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I would like to call the committee to order. And what we have for today for consideration is Tabled Document 1-13(3), Report of the Commission on MLA Compensation; Minister's Statement 82-13(3); Premier's Sessional Speech; Minister's Statement 86-13(3), Senior's Fuel Subsidy Program; Bill 17, Business Corporations Act; Bill 19, Electoral Boundaries Commissions Act.

We were on Bill 17 last night and I would like some direction from the committee as to how to proceed. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Committee of the whole would like to proceed Bill 17, Business Corporations Act, Minister's Statement 86-13(3), Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program; Bill 19, Electoral Boundaries

Commissions Act; Minister's Statement 82-13(3), Premier's Sessional Speech.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

BILL 17: BUSINESS CORPORATIONS ACT

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Okay..last night on, I believe, the Minister had witnesses when we left off last night and I will ask the Minister if he would like to invite his witnesses again, if the Committee agrees?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I will ask Mr. Ng, the Minister responsible for Justice if he would introduce his witnesses.

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HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Welcome to the committee.

We were on general comments by Members last night, is there any more general comments by Members or questions? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could tell us the consultation process they went through in regard to this bill?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask that Mr. MacDougall be allowed to elaborate on that, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. MacDougall.

MR. MACDOUGALL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the summer of 1995, a consultation draft of the bill was circulated or made available to the public, tabled in the Assembly and specifically distributed to those who work most frequently with this bill, the accounting profession, the legal profession, the business community, business Chamber of Commerce. And comments..very few comments were received back, but of those comments that were received, they were then considered and most of them incorporated into the final bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. MacDougall. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Yes, I wonder if I could get confirmation, Mr. Chairman, that this was definitely distributed to the NWT Chamber of Commerce and to the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. MacDougall?

MR. MACDOUGALL:

I know specifically it was distributed to the NWT Chamber of Commerce and I am not specifically sure about the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, but I think it was.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. MacDougall. General comments or questions on the bill? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Did the department distribute this document to businesses direct as well, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am advised that it was not specifically sent to all businesses. No, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. General comments on the bill. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is in regards to an issue I raised yesterday about the consultation with aboriginal organizations who have settled their claims and have established corporations under those claims, have you consulted those organizations in regards to this bill?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated yesterday I believe, no it was not distributed specifically to any aboriginal organizations. It was more to the organizations associated with chambers of commerce and with the legal and accounting professions as Mr. MacDougall has indicated. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

General comments. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Yes. Could the Minister tell me is this a redraft of existing legislation or is this a totally new bill?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a new act based on models of other jurisdictions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the land claim agreements, have you reviewed those agreements in regards to the duplication of the claims settlements and also this legislation, especially in regards to chapters 11 of the Gwich'in Agreement in regard to taxation, taxation corporations, and also schedule 1 chapter 2 in regards to permitted activities of settlement corporations. Have you considered those?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. MacDougall to speak to that, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. MacDougall.

MR. MACDOUGALL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I reviewed the agreements for any potential impacts that there might be in relation to this legislation but while there are a few corporations which may be touched on in the claims, the bill does not in any way take away from any of the rights, any benefits that they may have obtained. That is all protected constitutionally under the agreements and it is really only the most incidental impact that this bill has on any of the organizations.

Most of the corporations fulfilling any role under the land claims, on a quick review of those affected, tend to be federally incorporated. Quite a number of others are societies incorporated under the Societies Act. I was, in fact, only able to find one that was even incorporated under the existing Companies Act and its benefits and rights under the agreement are not in any way affected by this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. MacDougall. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could you point out in the bill to me exactly where it states that this bill would not

interfere in anyway with those land claim agreements? Did you establish some wording to that effect in the bill itself?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman. There is nothing specific in this Act that would address that, it would be in the federal acts, in the constitution which would recognize the land claims agreements and the rights under those agreements, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, you are stating that there is not wording to that effect in this bill. So that .. if possible, would you consider putting wording in this bill that would clearly state that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I indicated yesterday, I believe, any federally recognized rights would supersede any legislation that we have in place so there would no be, there would be no impact on aboriginal organizations or rights that are protected federally. So, I do not know, I cannot see that there would be a need to put specific language in here to deal with that matter if federal jurisdiction supersedes our laws Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now the reason I mention that is so that it is clear, it is upfront, people are aware

that there is a difference and it should be stated in the bill so that people know that this legislation, or the bill itself would not in any way, shape or form, affect any agreements which are presently in place, which are constitutionally protected by stating it in the bill itself would avoid any conflicts down the road.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if we did that in this one bill, we would have to do that with all of the bills, I would take it, and there would be no consequences to aboriginal organizations as I indicated earlier, because federal laws would supersede any of ours and would jurisdiction over any of our statutes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the law clerk can clarify this. Is it not sort of the law of the land federal legislation supersedes territorial legislation when there is any kind of dispute or conflict or question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Law clerk.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Section 35 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, any agreements that are reached with aboriginal groups would take precedence and are constitutionally entrenched. This legislature does not have the jurisdiction to interfere or impact on any rights or obligations that are contained within those agreements. I hope that answers the Member's questions, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister, in his opening comments on the Business Corporation Act, stated that the bill should have the effect of facilitating economic development in the north, and my question

is will the Minister elaborate on how this would happen, or how they would see this bill contributing to that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it would be in trying to having this Act streamlined, some of the measures wishing to get into business, that is how we would facilitate economic development, for example, there would be no requirement, you could have a single shareholder now as a corporate entity, for example, some of the minority shareholder rights would be strengthened as I indicated in my opening statement, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. General comments on the bill? Is the committee agreed, we go clause by clause? Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One question. Do we have a quorum now, as committee of the whole?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

We have a quorum, Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Does the committee agree that we go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Because of the size of the bill and the number of clauses, does the committee give unanimous consent that we proceed whereby I call all the clauses in each part of the bill as a group?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

The committee has given unanimous consent. Okay, well, we will proceed then with part one, Interpretation and Application, clauses one through four. Members agree?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed. **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

We are on page 6 of the bill, part two. Incorporation, clauses 5 through 14, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Page 13 of the bill, part 3, Capacity and Powers. Clauses 15 through 18. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 14, part 4. Registered Office, Records and Seal. Clauses 19 through 24. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 21, part 5, Corporate Finance. Clauses 25 through 47. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 38, part 6, Security Certificates, Registers and Transfers, clauses 48 through 81. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed. Page 63, part 7, Trust Indentures. Clauses 82 through 93. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 68, part 8, Receivers and Receiver- Managers, clauses 94 through 101. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 71, part 9, Directors and Officers, clauses 102 to 126. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 91, part 10, Insider Trading, clauses 127 through 132. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 97, part 11, Shareholders, clauses 133 through 148. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 97, part 11, Shareholders, clauses 133 to 148. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 109, part 12, Proxies, clauses 149 through 156. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 116, Part 13, Financial Disclosure, clauses 157 through 175. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 126, Part 14, Fundamental Changes, clauses 176 through 193. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 146, Part 15, Corporate Reorganization and Arrangements, clause 194. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 195. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 150, Part 16, Take-over Bids - Compulsory Purchase, clauses 196 through 208. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 156, Part 17, Liquidation and Dissolution, clauses 209 through 230. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

We are on page 175, part 18, Investigation, clauses 231 to 239. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 178, Part 19, Remedies, Offences and Penalties, clause 240 through 255. Agreed?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 187, Bill 17, Part 20, General, clauses 256 through 277. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 197, part 21, Extra-Territorial Corporations, clauses 278 through 299. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 210, Bill 17, Part 22, Miscellaneous, Clause 300. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 301. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 302. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

To the schedule on pages 212 through 216 inclusive.
Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Bill 17 as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Does the Committee agree that Bill 17 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Bill 17 is now ready for third reading. I would like to thank Mr. Ng and his witnesses. Would the committee agree to possibly a five minute break here while we arrange for the next item.

We will take a five minute break.

--- SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Order please. We have concluded consideration of Bill 17: Business Corporations Act and when we left off in Committee of the Whole the other day we were dealing with Ministers' Statement 86-13(3), Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program. We were on general comments. Are there any further general comments on the Seniors' Fossil Fuel Subsidy Ministers' Statement. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

In regards to the fuel subsidy I have been acquiring some information from my riding in regards to the effects that it has had on the people that I represent. Thirty some odd people have been affected by this decision which are just a small amount of people that were eligible.

Based on the 86 people in Inuvik who have been excluded, 30 some of those people are in the Mackenzie Delta riding. A lot of the people that are on the list, there are two widows, one in MacPherson, and one is Inuvik. The one her husband has just passed away just last year and, also, one in MacPherson who I have mentioned several times in my statement who is raising a granddaughter and also that she does sew to supplement her income.

I would like to see if there is a possibility of increasing those rates so that those people that still, as far as I am concerned, fall below the poverty rate, can still be able to retain this program. I have been seeing what the implication has been with regards to my riding and, of course, you can see from the people that I have on my list, a lot of these people, yes, have been former employees of the government, who are all presently pensioned, are no longer working for this government. They are working in some areas for the Power Corporation, or janitors at schools, or work with the Department of Renewable Resources in the past.

These people are the people that have set the examples of being able to retain a job, been able to maintain a home, a family, and a lot of these people that we are talking about are also supplementing the families that are associated with them. Such as raising grandchildren who have nowhere else to go.

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I think you have to realize that, especially in the north when it comes to the Aboriginal family, the family unit does not just consist of two people, you have to consider that they take seriously the grandparents and also the grandchildren who are closely knitted together.

For them to continue on with the family values of respecting the family, regardless if it is children or grandparents. They have to continue on with that process where you may have large families and the problems we are seeing with overcrowding, the shortage of housing, and what not. This is one means the people have is to try to maintain a family unit and also maintain the home. In a lot of these homes the grandparents are raising a lot of their grandchildren and it is no fault of their own, but just the way things are, that is the case.

I think we seriously have to consider for the sake of this program that we have to...we are talking about trying to look at additional funds elsewhere, and I believe we can do that. The Minister stated that the

possibility of looking for funds to build a training centre and managed to spend eight million dollars to develop the RCMP facility here in Yellowknife which is presently under construction. We were able to find new dollars in the capital which were moved into new projects which was basically in regards to the business reviews which we have done over the last week. So if there is a will, there is a way that we can find those funds.

So, my question to the Minister is, will he consider looking at some sort of mechanism to implement, sort of, a schedule of income eligibility and take into account the regional disparities and also the different cost of living, in regards to the fossil fuel and, also, in regards to the different northern communities?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, as I indicated when we were discussing this item two days ago, I have looked within my budget and have not been able to find additional funds that the member would like to see me put back into the program.

At that time, I also committed to discussing with the Standing Committee on Social Programs any changes that we might be looking at undertaking for next year. This program, the operational guidelines, have already been issued to departmental offices, contracts have been let with companies to provide fuel to seniors based on those operational guidelines. I do not have the flexibility to change them at this point in time.

I am willing to discuss with the Seniors Society, their suggestions for changing the program next year, and from there taking some guidance from the Standing Committee. This program must be considered along with all of our income support programs and while there is a difference in the cost of living across the Northwest Territories, our income support programs recognize that. This one aspect of the income support programs does not necessarily reflect that differential of cost of living, but taken as a whole, our income support programs do. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Any further general comments. Mr Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I find it, kind of disheartening that, basically, the Minister is saying that it is a problem to get fuel suppliers in the communities to change a work order, basically, because it is too much work. I think that is, kind of, a cop out in regards to a simple effort such as that. I mean, basically, all it takes is to notify your suppliers of who these people are and make them aware that there has been a change through a letter or re-submitting new names to that list.

I do not think you are talking additional dollars.

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Presently, we supplement tax breaks for large companies in the Northwest Territories which, largely, retain large amounts of tax dollars from this government in regards to having the lowest corporate tax rate and also, the tax breaks that we are looking at, and if we can find subsidies for those people, I do not see why we cannot find subsidies for the people that, in regards to our elders, who have maintained their lives in the Northwest Territories and continue to do so.

All the people I am talking about in regards to the Mackenzie Delta are aboriginal people. Who were born and raised in the Northwest Territories and will die in the Northwest Territories. For the Minister to say that it is going to be a major difficulty for him to change his view. It was pretty easy for them to, basically, move five million dollars around and find dollars to carry them over and what not and pass a supplementary appropriations and I do not see, for the change I am talking about, in regards to the change and the schedule for those people, that we are not talking two hundred thousand dollars, it could be a lot less than that, it could be fifty thousand, it could be a hundred thousand depends on the criteria we are using.

What I am suggesting is that we use a formula that will exclude a lot of the higher bracket incomes that people arrived at. So that the people that we are talking about are those people at the middle or low end of the wage scale. So I am not talking about opening it up to everybody in the Northwest Territories, I am talking about looking at some sort of a formula that we can look at.

So, if that is possible, would the Minister consider looking at that?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, as I said, I am willing to look at options for next year. The member keeps bringing up things that are not relevant. The RCMP facility, that is not GNWT dollars, the one that is being built in Yellowknife here. It certainly has nothing to do with the budget that this Legislature approved for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

The tax rate that we charge companies in the Northwest Territories, again, it is this Legislative Assembly that has the final say about what tax rates are charged in the Northwest Territories. The rate that we charge now in our corporate taxes is intended to encourage companies to file their income taxes in the Northwest Territories so that we have more money with which we can provide social programs. If you increase the rate of taxes, the number of companies filing their returns in the Northwest Territories goes down, so it is probably a zero sum game.

In terms of moving money around, if the member wants to check he will see that there has been no money moved from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to another department or vice versa. There has been money moved around within the department when contracts came in under budget and other projects came in over budget, we have had to compensate. Yes, we have moved some money around. But, nothing came in or out from the department. It was all done within.

The member talks about instituting a sliding scale. Because some of the fuel contracts have been let, it is impossible to institute a sliding scale, as we would have to reduce the amount of funding that was given in some communities to increase it in others. I do not have the flexibility to add money. And that is what the member is suggesting.

So, short of reducing the subsidy in some areas there is no other way to increase it in others. Since some of the contracts have gone out, it is hardly reasonable to go back to people who have applied for a subsidy and been told they are going to get the equivalent of five cords of wood, that all of a sudden, sorry, we have to cut you back to three and a half or four

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cords. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Further general comments. Mr. Ningark. I did not realise, Mr. Ningark, that Mr. Krutko had not finished yet, would you agree to let him finish? Okay, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chair. The Minister has got a good point that he cannot change anything, yet there is a mechanism there that allows for change where people can be added to the list if they can find a means to say, well, I will go on welfare and then I can qualify. I mean, there is a mechanism there now that you are telling people that they can go there if they can prove that they, so there is a mechanism for change, yet you are saying that there is not.

So, which is it? There is an avenue where people can go forward to the social worker and try to plead poverty and get added to the list, yet, you are telling us that you cannot change it, period. Yet, that is my understanding, that there is that mechanism. Is that the case?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Madam Chair, any resident of the Northwest Territories can present themselves to an income support worker and demonstrate that they have financial need and their needs will be supported. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. General comments. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I know we are going through financially difficult times, and we have to make some very, very tough decisions for the people we represent within the jurisdiction of the NWT.

On the second hand, Madam Chair, the seniors are by and large the most important part of our community across the country, not only in the NWT, but across the country. They have, according to what I know, paved the way for people like us to live in the community, to be able to survive in their own community, to be able to survive on the land, to be able to survive within the growth.

Madam Chair, the seniors provide advice to all of us, during the time of need. I think everyone understands and realizes that. Madam Chair, to deny the service required by the senior citizens would be a statement, as to say that, we thank you for your help when I needed help, but now I can go on and live on my own, good-bye.

I think we should at least, Madam Chair, during their last hours, in this cold climate, try and do something for them, for they have done something for us. When we were running for the seats in this legislature, I am sure that each and every one of you, counted every possible voter in the community, young people who are old enough to vote, women, men, and more importantly, the elders.

Elders are respected in the community, and they have a very strong influence over how things are going to come out. I am sure that each and every one of us, recognizing that fact, has gone to the elders, because of their influence over the outcome, for whatever they wanted to do, and we have used them to get this far.

I know there is no money in the system, if the money could be had from other programs, other areas of this government. I know we can find it somewhere. I understand Mr. Krutko's point. I understand some of the Minister's point, that there is no money in the system to allow the extra program, for extra costs to be had. I understand the honourable Minister when he stated some time ago and today, there is no flexibility within his domain, or within his department.

We realize that. But I am sure we can try to find some money, to allow the elders to have a minimum of comfort. I do not think that is too much to ask. I wish that we would have the flexibility, we would have the luxury to provide much needed help to the

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elders. I am support of Mr. Krutko within reasonable means. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Would the Minister like to respond to that or carry on? Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair this is no way meant to be disrespectful of the seniors and what they have contributed to the Northwest Territories.

This program must be considered as part of our Income Support Program. It is not an entitlement. It is not something that every senior has collected until now. It is something where you have to own your own home, you have to be over 60 years of age and what we are doing is ensuring that the program is only provided to those who are in financial need. This government provides a number of programs to seniors, and all its residents that are classified as income support, and if somebody needs heat in their home, we will make sure that it is provided.

This is not going to mean that somebody will freeze. This change was undertaken in order to ensure that people who could afford to look after themselves were doing that. So, I hope that Members will remember that this program is being delivered by the Department of Education, Culture & Employment because it was seen as an Income Support Program and was moved to the Department at the same time as Social Assistance, for administration as part of that program.

That is the reason that it is within this Department and not within the Department of Health and Social Services. It must be viewed together with what we are doing for Income Support. Thank you Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, when we can afford to accommodate able, young able bodies, \$32.00 a month rent then I think we should be able to afford to supply this subsidy to the elders that they cannot afford. I think what we have here under the Fossil Fuel Subsidy Program is not enough for elders to be dependent upon. I think that is what we are trying to say here. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Madam Chair. I agree totally with the Member that we need to change our social housing policies, to ensure that there is equity within our system. I think it is the goal of the Ministers of the social envelope to make sure that happens. I also want to make sure that the Member understands that in November of this year I will be introducing to this House changes to the Income Support Program which will mean that an able bodied young man is not going to be able to just sit around and watch t.v. at home any more. I want people to know that we are going to make sure that there is more equity and fairness in the system and that those who need the support will be given the support.

The Member may be interested to know that in 95/96 in the Kitikmeot Region, there were eight people who collected the Wood Fuel Subsidy and, of those who are no longer eligible for the program, not one of them had collected Social Assistance in the previous 15 months. These are not generally the lowest income people who have been removed from the system. These - the people who are not eligible - are typically those who have some resources. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. General comments. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, another message that, I think, is in here is we like to maintain the pride of the elders who have maintained their own homes and will continue to maintain their own homes. Some of the elders have worked very, very hard even before the program to allow the residents of the NWT who have put forward, like the home ownership

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Program, access unit program. We have to try and show we wanted to set a good example. We have said that many times. I think some of the elders who have maintained their own home have managed to provide a good example for young people to follow them. We want that to continue to happen. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. General comments. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. This issue is a highly sensitive one and I think a highly emotional one for a lot of people. But one point I would like to make clear in this issue is, while we debate the level of the threshold for this program, I do not think it is a fair comment on anybody's part to try to imply that because we may not all see eye to eye on specific issues in this program, that any one of us has any less concern or respect for elders and we want them to live in dignity in their communities and the respect that they have earned over the years. I would not attribute that motive to anybody around this table. I hope it would not be attributed.

I am a Member of the Social Programs Committee. We looked at this particular issue, along with the Minister, Mr. Dent. It was put forward as a cost-cutting option and to meet some targets. We agreed to that. It was sent out, along with all the other cuts that we all did -- the multi-million dollars in cuts. The Minister has indicated that in addition to that he red flagged it to all MLAs, mayors, chiefs and councils, so now, as we sit here with sober second thoughts, half-way through or a little over half-way through the fiscal year and we are starting to get questions, we have been asked to reconsider.

Madam Chair, I have sat around the Ordinary Members' Caucus and listened to this discussion. In fact, my understanding was that the ordinary Members' caucus was going to agree refer this back to the Social Programs Committee and we have a meeting set up with Mrs. Braden from the Seniors' Society for the Northwest Territories to discuss this very specific issue.

We have to recognize that this is one of many issues we are going to be dealing with in terms of subsidies. As we speak, we are trying to gather, hopefully, a comprehensive list of government subsidies across the board that may exist in Education, Health and Social Services, Renewable Resources and Economic Development. There is a whole range in the hundreds of millions of dollars. We set a direction for ourselves for two years and we are moving into the second year. We have a lot of hard decisions to make. The Social Programs Committee has committed to review this matter and see if there is room to move and what suggestions we could make that would help resolve this issue.

I also think we have to be very careful when we start unravelling the blanket that we have knit here over the last year because there is a relationship. There is a policy in place that people over 60 can live rent free in public housing that has a great impact on this particular situation and what it does for motivating elders and seniors to stay in their own home or not. It ties in with all the other subsidies we talk about with income reform and single, healthy males living rent free for the most part.

This is a very complicated issue that I do not think this government or this Assembly really has a good handle on. I think we should be given the latitude as a Social Programs Committee to look at this. We have received a very clear indication from Members that this is an issue and that they would like it reconsidered. I am prepared to do that. I am not prepared just to jump in and support a flat increase that does not recognize, for one thing, regional disparities, which is a big issue. I want to know very clearly where we are going to find the money because I do not think we are being responsible if we just say after we have improved this budget, tell Cabinet to go find money somewhere else and cover this because surely it is out there somewhere.

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While there are the struggles with those we are trying to hit targets. I am willing to look at this and I want to do it in a way that is going to be responsible, and in a way that gives everybody a chance to look at some of the things we may have overlooked in a rush the first time to get the budget approved which, I think it is fair to say, we overlooked a number of things in our haste to try to meet deadlines and targets.

I think I cannot support a motion just for a flat increase, Madam Chair, but I am willing to look at this as a Member of the Social Programs Committee if it comes up.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. General comments. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chair. At this time, I would like to table a motion.

I MOVE that the Committee recommend that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment considers amending the Senior Fossil Fuel Subsidy

Program by implementing scheduling income eligibility that takes into account regional disparities, the cost of living, generally and too that the cost of fossil fuel be supplemented in northern communities.

AND FURTHER, that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment consider an increase in income eligibility requirements for single seniors from \$12,972 to \$20,000, and couples from \$30,744 to \$40,000 to represent the other end of the scale.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I suppose I would support concept of this motion simply because it does address the fact that our senior citizens have been kind of identified as the first people that are getting the cuts in government subsidies.

Personally, I had no problem with the subsidy being cut last spring when we presented the budget because we thought that everybody was going to receive cuts. But I think the most obvious one is this one here at the present time. I am sure that in my communities that I have been to, there is no obvious cuts at this point in time to social services, welfare people.

The Minister said these are coming and I believe him. I just wonder why the elders had to be singled out as the first to get the cuts? I also feel that there are other programs that this government subsidizes that would have been more beneficial and more productive than picking on the elders.

Mr. Miltenberger asked where we will find the money, the \$200,000 roughly. Have they forgotten what it cost us -- \$30 million a year just on capital? That does not include O and M. Have we forgotten that? Because I do not see any action towards -- I hear a lot of promises from Cabinet saying they are going to discuss it now. We have been patient with them for a long time now so I tend to lower my credibility and whether this thing will ever be cut.

I will support that, if we cannot cut one, we have no business cutting the other. So I will support this motion. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

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

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. Madam Chairman, I could not support this motion. I believe, for me, it would be irresponsible to support it without having information as to the cost implications. I believe there is a much better way to handle this.

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It could be handled by the Social Committee in conjunction with the Minister. The cost implications could be identified at that time, and I believe that could be handled in a speedy manner by the social committee working in conjunction with the Minister. So, I cannot support this motion as it stands. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. To the motion. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Chair. I am going to be supporting the motion because in the High Arctic the cost of living is 75 percent more. Also, a lot of elders are getting access units which will need fossil fuel subsidy in the future. I will be supporting the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

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

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. My friend from Tuk has summed up my feelings on this issue. I brought up, in the past, the concern I had with BIP and the \$30-odd million it cost -- actually that is just part of the cost. We made a promise that we would not balance this budget on the backs of little people or the less fortunate and, to me, that includes the elders. With that, I will be supporting the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

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

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I cannot support this motion. In answering the question from the Member from the Mackenzie Delta two days ago, I said that I

hoped if he were to bring forward this kind of motion, that in it he would indicate where the money should come from. I have to say that, without knowing where that money should come from, I cannot, in good conscience, support this motion either.

I would dearly love to put the money back into the program, but I need to know where it should come from. I want to know where else we should cut because, unlike what Mr. Steen says, we have cut social assistance allowances. We cut them significantly a year ago this month, and they were cut further in January of this year.

There are more changes coming in November.

We have cut funding to schools. We have cut what we give to kids to get through school. We have cut the funding to colleges. We have cut the funding for grants to cultural and heritage organizations. We have cut millions of dollars out of funding for adult education. I am sorry. We have cut across the board. This is not the first cut that has happened in this department. I hate to say it, but it is definitely not the last one.

Madam Chairman, I think that if we want to deal with this responsibly, I need to know where the money should come from. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. To the motion. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, like Mr. Miltenberger, I am a Member of the Social Programs Committee. When I spoke earlier to the fuel subsidy, I am staying within the line of the motion. I never stated, "Let us do it now." I stated, "...if the money could be had."

I do not think what the motion is suggesting here is cast in stone. I believe the honourable Member has stated that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment consider amending the Seniors' Fossil Fuel Subsidy Program.

Also, in the motion, AND FURTHER, that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment consider increasing the allowable income eligibility requirement for the single seniors." This is not giving direction. I think it enhances the proposed review of the social program with the Minister himself.

I will be supporting the motion because it is not yet saying, "we shall" or "we will". It is only giving direction to review. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. To the motion. Mr. Krutko, would you defer to Mr. Erasmus and maybe you will be able to sum up since it is your motion. To the motion, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chair. At the outset, I want to make it very clear that I want this program to continue and I fully support assisting seniors to live independently and with the measure of dignity that they deserve. However, I cannot support this motion for the following reasons.

First of all, there is a lot of other issues to look at. It does not address the fact that it is cheaper for two people to live together because they could share the electricity costs. They could share the water costs and fuel costs that are required in addition to what we provide. Also, if you share accommodation with someone else, you only need to buy a certain amount of chairs, beds, and you do not have to duplicate everything. Yet, this current policy provides an even higher cut-off point which is more than double what it is for a single person when it should be less, in my view.

Also, what needs to be addressed is the fact that this policy is only for home owners, but yet it is probably more expensive for most people who rent because if you already own your own home and you are not making mortgage payments, then you are paying less to live than the renter who has to pay his rent. In some instances, it could be \$600 or \$800 a month in Yellowknife, and \$1,200 a month if you are renting a trailer or something. Plus, the renter would have to pay for his fuel, electricity and the other costs.

At the same time, we are providing some seniors with homes totally free of cost. This does not address that either if those people are living in social housing.

It also does not address the situation for seniors who use electricity for heat. It also does not address the fact that there is simply no money in Mr. Dent's budget to cover this. I have been saying for some time now that the social envelope needs more money. Education, Culture and Employment needs more

money if we want to improve this program, if we want to keep it in the first place, and second, if we want to improve it so it is a fair system, we have to get more money into this area.

We have to give the direction if that is what we want. As I said, although I do support a seniors' fuel subsidy, I cannot support this particular motion. I will support that it goes back to the social envelope and that we try to devise and implement a more fair program. I would also ask that people consider that more money be put into Education, Culture and Employment specifically for these types of programs if we want them to continue, if we do not want to cut more money from the school boards, and if we do not want our student/teacher ratio to continue rising. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

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

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Mr. Erasmus has expressed a lot of the areas that were of concern to me. I am sympathetic and supportive of the seniors' position that they should not be cut. There are some other issues that I am concerned with, and they were raised by the Seniors' Advisory Council and the Seniors' Society. I asked the questions from the Minister the other day to see if he would have further consultations with them. I got an answer on that. I cannot support this motion, to me it requires further information, as Mr. Henry stated, what are the financial implications of this and this raises a lot of other issues in my mind, this motion. It needs to be studied further and I support the idea of it going to the Social Committee.

I support the idea of keeping the seniors' independence and perhaps by re-instituting the Subsidy Program to all seniors we will avoid, perhaps,

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the taking advantage of the program because one of the areas I see of concern is that people will move out of their own homes into subsidized homes. We are encouraging that by cutting it off. I have some questions with respect to why are we putting a threshold of \$12,000 on an individual, and \$30,000 on a couple. I just do not understand that, perhaps there is a logical explanation, but I need to have those

explanations before I can support a motion on this nature.

I think that is all I would like to say, Madam Chairperson, so I will not be supporting the motion.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

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

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We have been discussing this motion and we have been discussing this program quite lengthily now. Someone had stated that it should be returned to the Committee on Social Programs along with recommendations from the Minister, these could be considered at Social Committee.

I think we are dealing with the subject quite fast and we will be consulting with the Seniors' Society, Abe Ookpik and George Porter, and another member of the Seniors' Society should be consulted. I should have consulted with them as to what they think of this particular program, Income Support for Seniors. Madam Chairperson, I would like to state the motion by Mackenzie Delta M.L.A., I will not be supporting that this time. That is all I wanted to state at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

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

MR. EVALOARJUK:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My reasoning has been such that during the day I have been thinking about and contemplating on...if it is stated another way maybe I would be able to support it for people who are very poor.

I know some of the seniors will be able to support themselves for the rest of their lives. If it could be stated for people who are not capable of supporting themselves and just state the ones who are capable of looking after themselves who have retired and who have worked for the Government for many years, maybe we could restate the motion.

If it is on a full scale for all seniors I could not support it, but if it is only related to the people who are from the north, in our area. Their cost of living is higher than here and they do not have very much income. If

they had groceries here and groceries in my region, if it is more than the cost of living here... is very high.

If you can make it more specific to the people who are poor then I would be able to support the motion. That is my question to the motion. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

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

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, this is a very serious issue in regards to the elders and I have received letters from elders in my community concerning this.

My major concern was that originally, it seemed to me that, the subsidy was not taking into account the different cost of living in different areas of the Northwest Territories because the threshold amount seemed to be too low.

Having people like Mr. Ningark, and the Chairperson of the Social Committee, Mr. Enuaraq, on that Committee gives me some confidence that if the motion is referred back to the Social Programs Committee, then after the meeting with the elders I

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think something can be done to adjust what is the spirit and intent of the motion, and thus I would support bringing it back to the Social Programs Committee which it came from to begin with, and give the Social Program Committee an opportunity to review it again after the meeting with the elders. So I would support that move. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. To the motion, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I think there is a lot of debate out there. We are talking about how we support our elders. We want to help them out. We want to thank them for the years of service they have given to us and also how much we love them. That is great, motherhood and apple pie statements, but I think the statement that we are going to put here today is on this vote on the floor, and basically those

people vote in favour, and those people that do not, and I think we are all talking about, well, where do we get the money from? We just made a motion the other day, giving the Cabinet a slap on the wrist, because of some projects that were revoked.

I believe there was a project for the Fort Simpson Recreation Complex where the money is going to be taken back, some \$500,000. There is \$500,000. We have a 2.2 million dollars surplus sitting in the pension fund sitting in Vancouver, yet no one talks about that which is basically dollars that come from this Government, which is a surplus, so maybe we can look at that.

I mean there is other areas where we are talking about a billion dollars budget, and basically the cost everybody is worrying about, it could not be any more than what has been taken out. You have been taken out \$200,000. So, we are talking about how much it may cost, at the maximum it is going to be \$200,000, which is going to be less because we are already almost into November, because the need probably will not be there.

We are talking about empowering communities, giving communities an opportunity to put people to work. In my region this is one area where people look forward to find work is being able to cut wood through this Program, for seniors, which generates employment in a lot of communities where we have timber as a means of supplying the subsidy to the people in those communities. There is another job initiative that we are looking at. We are talking about stimulating the economy, generating jobs, putting people to school.

Also the other area we can possibly look at for cuts is the Minister of Education saying, well where can we get this money from this Department. I believe your Department has some people who have used the system for years as students who basically make a living on going to university year after year and taking one course after another and at the end of the day there is individuals trying to get into taking one course, yet some people have five or six courses under their belt, they can have degrees and everything. Why are those people not paying for going to universities and take a trade year after year and end up with five or six trades, yet we do not have individuals who want to get a trade, cannot get in there.

There is a whole bunch of money that we can look at saving there. Take a look at those programs you deliver for those people. Those people take a

program, they should put something back into the system by using those skills to work within that field that they took that trade for. So I think that is another area that the Minister can probably look at.

Also in regards to the whole idea that seniors' in our public housing do not get a subsidy. People in the housing units subsidized by Government do not pay a fee, that is the other thing that people do not realize, they are not paying. People in their own homes have to maintain and pay their power bills, pay their fuel bills, pay the cost to maintain them. If anything breaks, they are responsible for it, and the whole question about people living in these homes who are able citizens who are paying \$32 per month, and basically having a great time, yet these people have maintained these houses all their lives to try to...most of them are long term government employees, or long term people who have made a statement to the

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other people...you do not have to depend on government...let us basically look at ways that we can generate...so there is those avenues that we can look at.

We had the question by Mr. Steen in regards to the bid. That is thirty million dollars that we can possibly look at. These are things that we are looking at, yet we are talking about a measly \$200,000, we just managed to find the budget review that there is five million dollars of projects that have been moved around, and that was no problem. Yet we are talking \$200,000. What is \$200,000 out of five million.

---Applause

That is only about one fifth of one percent. So, I would like to state that people are talking about meeting with the elders, and basically giving them the statement. This is my statement, for the people who are going to meet with the elders. Maybe you should have something you can take to the elders and tell them, that we have done this, we are looking at it, we are trying to get it back in. We passed a motion, here it is. Then when you go to meet with them, they have something to talk about. But do not go to them and give them lip service, say, we will try to look at it, but we cannot get it in this year. We are going to do it next year. That is all you can tell them, but through this motion, I believe you could be able to consider looking at it.

With that, I would like to, for those people who are going to support this motion, stand up for what you believe, and those who people who do not, basically you can talk to the people you represent. I am making this statement for the people that I represent in my riding, which is thirty some odd people, and I believe that those people have long served the Northwest Territories, and raising their families and being independent, and we should get them a bonus for that. With that, I call for a recorded vote at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the motion. The question is being called with a recorded vote. Please stand all those in favour of the motion.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Krutko, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Steen, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Barnabas, Mr. Enuaraq, Mr. Picco, Mr. O'Brien.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

All those opposed to the motion, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Roland, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Henry, Mr. Ng, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Morin, Mr. Todd, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Dent.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

All those abstaining.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Evaloarjuk.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

The motion is defeated. There were eight in favour, twelve against, and one abstention. General comments. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I would like to propose a motion. I move that the matter of the seniors fossil fuel subsidy program be referred to the Standing Committee on Social Programs for review to ensure that it provides a fair and equitable subsidy to the seniors of the Northwest Territories. And further, that the Standing Committee on Social Programs

report back to the Legislative Assembly on this review as soon as possible. Thank you Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Okay, we will just give a couple of seconds for the motion to be circulated, and then we will...you cannot hear me, oh, pardon me, I am sorry. We will give Members a chance to look at the motion, and, then we will take comments to the motion. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, this motion seems to suggest that the last time the social

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committee looked at this issue they did not take into consideration whether it was a fair and equitable subsidy to the seniors. Is that true? Did the committee not do a good job? Are they going to do any better this time? Is there some new points to be considered here that were not considered before?

The only point I am aware of that has not been considered before was, it was not discussed with the seniors. They did not have an opportunity to put forward their opinion. What this thing also suggests to me, is that we are again evading the issue, passing it on to another committee. One of the reasons I supported the previous motion was it sort of ended the discussions. We have decided to do something. This thing here does not decide to do anything. It is going to report back to the Legislative Assembly for another review. We are going to go around and around on this thing until we finally run out of money. That is about all we are going to accomplish. So I cannot support this motion.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. To the motion. I have Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Henry, Mr. Enuaraq. We have a few more speakers here. Mr. Miltenberger, please.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. The previous motion was something that put the responsibility on cabinet. It was a recommendation to consider. We are going to talk to RMC, what those motions are. They make us all feel good, but if we do not come up with something that works, cabinet does their job, carries on, and those motions sit there. They will consider it. They say

they have done that. So, you guys, especially some of the two-track types, if you want to vote for that, that is fine, keeping in mind that it is a feel good kind of motion. So that you can stand up and beat your breast. The motion that it is on the table, I am supporting it.

The social programs committee, like every other committee, including the one Mr. Steen sat on, was faced with a budget cutting exercise, as opposed to any kind of substantive program review. We were presented with a list of options, on the assumption, and I think it was an assumption well made, that there was time to do all the proper things as we rushed down to get a budget passed. So, did we do everything right? Probably not. Did we communicate enough? Did the Minister communicate enough? Probably not. Communications is one of our big problems since we started.

If we take this back to Committee, then it is something that we have to work out with cabinet. We have a joint responsibility. We have a sense of ownership. If you want to think that it is just a matter of going around to the committee, do not attribute motives that you may have on your own committee, to the committee that I am sitting on, because that is not the intent that I have. I want to look at this seriously to resolve this issue.

I have no problems standing up to the seniors in my community, including my dear sweet mother, to talk about this issue. I support this motion, and there are things that have changed in the last six or eight months. We are six or eight months wiser, and these issues have come up. They have come up across the board in all the committees. Can every committee Member here say that they have done everything perfectly? I do not think so. Nor any Cabinet Minister.

So either we are in this together, let us work out some solutions. These shots, and what I consider a lot of it is empty grandstanding, well that is fine, if you want to do that, go ahead and do it. I want to get solutions here. So I am in support of this motion. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. I think, Mr. Henry, with your permission, we will let Mr. Enuaraq go next, seeing as he is the Chair of the Social Programs Committee. Would that be alright, Mr. Henry? Thank you. Mr. Enuaraq. To the motion.

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to say that as a Chairperson of the Social Programs

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Committee that if Mr. Steen does not feel that the Social Programs Committee is not doing something right, that he is welcome to the meeting anytime. Also, Madam Chairperson, to the motion that was put forward by Mr. Henry, I support the motion, because I think it gives us another chance to review it again at the committee meetings. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

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

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Mr. Steen's comments I think, hopefully are made out of a sense of frustration more than anything else, I would like to think that he was not implying that the Social Committees did not do a good job. I believe Social Committee probably did do a good job in conjunction with the Minister.

I think, what has changed now, is that there is a lot more information available, there is particular information to say that the seniors do not feel that they were as consulted as they could be on the issue, if at all. I would suggest that that is some of the information that the Social Committees could look at now, but I still think it is important that this issue be looked at and all the ramifications.

I understand that the Social Committee regardless, of how this motion goes, are meeting with representatives of the Seniors Committee, I believe, this week also. I think the question of regional disparities can be taken into consideration, I think the Social Committees have had the opportunity of listening to concerns that have been raised by all members of this House. Also, members in the ordinary caucus, so, they have a lot more information that they can deal with when looking at this important question. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. To the motion, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I have the faith in the Committee that they will address this subject properly. The committee system has worked very well for us

and I feel that I do not have any questions about the fact that they will address this in a proper way and come up with some solution to the question before us.

I want to remind members that we have advised that if you wish to make comments on this further go to the Committee meeting, if you have concern about where this subject is going, go to the Committee meeting. That is my position with Mr. Krutko and his motion as well. Mr. Krutko is very concerned he has a very good point to put forward, but I think he can go to the Social Committee at this point, and make his point there as well.

So, it has not stopped, there is a lot of information coming forward and I think it is properly addressed by the Social Committee. I am not at all concerned, if seniors want to address me about this subject and dress me down about it I do not have a problem because I am not prepared to make decision on the basis of not having the proper information. I am looking for a solution as well, to this problem and so far, the only problem that has been posed to me has been by the Seniors Society and the Seniors Association Advisory Council and their problem was one of communication, but there was not an adamant statement that they want this rolled back.

Now, I am not in favour of, sorry, let me try and address this properly, I am in favour of looking at retaining his, but I have to face facts here, not just some statements that are coming from other people telling me this. I want to know. Are seniors upset over this or are they not? And, as I say, the Seniors Society has addressed me very strongly with some areas of concern. I am going to put those before the Social Committee and others can put their issues before it and out at the end, hopefully, we will get some solution to this. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

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

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MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, I would like to ask that we extend sitting time until we finish this particular issue?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Mr. Erasmus, you would need to make a motion to extend sitting hours to conclude this matter. Would you like to make a motion?

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chair, I move that we extend sitting hours until we conclude this particular matter.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

The motion is in order, it is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried. To the motion, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I was going to make an impassioned speech but I feel I have already said what I wanted to say in my previous address on the previous motion. I just want to indicate a fully support a seniors fossil fuel subsidy program, but I feel that it should go to the Social Programs Committee so that we can put in a more equitable and a more well thought out program that addresses a lot of the issues that have been brought up, and it is for that reason that I voted against the previous motion, because it would not have addressed all the issues that are still outstanding and I will be voting for this motion. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I will be voting against the motion. I believe this Committee has had an opportunity to deal with this, which they did not do, we probably would not be in this situation if they had dealt with it fairly the first time and also that, maybe they should also consider that amount of people that have, because of another decision they made regarding increasing people's fees, that there are now elders facilities where a lot of people have now abandoned these facilities to live with their family and relatives because, that cost increased on seniors also.

I believe also, that the Committee, I went to a meeting yesterday where they had an opportunity to speak to it and did not spend any more than five or ten minutes on the item, which basically, nothing was even dealt

with on the item. All that was decided was to put it off and deal with it later.

In regards to Mr. Miltenberger's statement about people being gutless and standing up and grandstanding, I was not grandstanding, I have thirty people in my riding who will no longer receive this subsidy, a lot of those people are disabled and cannot afford to work, maybe it is nice to live in a larger centre, which I do not, I think, the seniors have been.. we are talking a Committee that talks about compassion and everything else, yet, like Mr. Steen states, it seems, like, the first person that we seem to lay down our compassionate statement is on the seniors when, we basically start increasing their fees on the seniors homes and also doing away with subsidies that will clearly benefit those people.

So, I would like to state that they do meet with the seniors tomorrow, I hope you would like to mention to them that we also did make an attempt to pass a motion in this House to deal with this matter once and for all, get it over with and move on. We are probably spending in the range of eighteen thousand dollars a day to sit here, we are talking about where will we get the two hundred thousand dollars from to pay in this issue. And as far as I am concerned, it has gone through the cycle again and is probably going to take another three months before it gets back to being resolved and the Minister has clearly stated who the Committee answers to but he is in no way, shape or form going to move on this motion. So if they can somehow convince him, more power to you. But I will be voting against this motion.

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CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the motion, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the second motion Mr. Miltenberger was talking about, communication and things have changed. I did not know there was going to be a second motion. Talking about the two track minds, my point was, about the threshold and the amount of income there that was involved, and as Mr. Krutko rightfully said, where was the money going to come from? Well, he is right. We did close that six hundred thousand dollars over there in Simpson. That could have gone into the fuel subsidy program.

So, after Mr. Krutko said that, I agreed with what he said. Yes, thank you, Mr. Todd. And, the situation regarding the elders fuel subsidy, it does not matter if there are thirty people or only one person in a community that is using it, it is an important matter to be taken with. I did not understand or take Mr. Steen's comments to mean that he felt the Social Committee did not do the work. I think his comment was, look you have passed one motion it has been voted on, let us get on with it. He probably did not know there was a second motion coming to the floor either.

On the point about consistency and two track minds, some people can be as consistent as concrete and as bright as concrete too, and the point is well taken that you had the opportunity to change your mind, like Mr. Krutko said, and rightfully so, if the money was wanted to be found to put the two hundred dollars back, we could find it. We could take it from the Simpson thing and the threshold amount was the amount involved. The recommendation made by the Committee - if Mr. Miltenberger does not have any faith in what the recommendations of this House makes in Committee of the Whole, then maybe we should not make any type of recommendations if he does not think the Cabinet would take, adhere the principle to them. Although they are only recommendations, they are recommendations made by the majority of the members if the recommendation passed. I think we would be at their peril if they did not listen to them. So that is a contradiction there in itself.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

To the Motion. Are you... Okay, Mr. Picco, I am sorry, Mr. Picco I am sorry....

Okay Mr. Picco are you finished, your mike was turned off. Did you have something further you wanted to say? To the Motion?

MR. PICCO:

I do not have to say anything. They are all going to speak for me. Yes, I am finished.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Okay, thank you Mr. Picco. To the motion Mr. O'Brien please.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I take exception to my good friend Mr. Miltenberger's

comments that this is only a "feel good" motion only so that members that supported it can stand up and beat their chest. I think that is a cheap shot and as what was stated here today was said in a very genuine manner, very sincere, and in no way was intended - it was not intended to be a grandstanding item. Thank you Mr. Speaker. Madam.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. I would like to remind the members please to temper your comments. Make your comments relevant to the motion as opposed to each other and each other's comments.

To the motion please Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Madam Chair. To the motion. On Social Programs Committee, to the motion I would vote in favour of this because it would give me a chance to talk with the seniors who I am meeting with on Saturday in the community of Inuvik and I will get their input and I will voice it in the Thursday meeting we will have with the other seniors on October 25th.

It seems like in issues of this -- the Motion here -- initially we cut it out; after a lot of response, we

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are discussing it again, and I agree we do seem to go in circles on it, but it seems like quite a number of things within the social program come back and we receive a lot of pressure. This is just the beginning Madam Chair and I think that if we are going as much problems on this then we could be sitting a lot longer in this House on a lot more things.

I think we are going to try and address this in committee and as for dealing with this, yesterday we met as a committee on a number of things. This issue did come up but we realized then we did not have all the information and it was brought to our attention that we were also meeting with the president of the Seniors' Association, I believe, and we were told at that time our meeting was to occur on October 25th. We figured we would give them the opportunity at that time to address this specific issue.

We have talked about communication, consultation. I think we are just trying to do our job. As a member of the Social Programs Committee, I think we are trying to do the best we have with what we have and no, we are not right all the time. But I do not think anybody

walks on this world is. I think we all need to step back and realize that. I said it ;before and I will say it again - even back home in my community I will make some decisions, good and bad, but hopefully I will realize that and learn from my mistakes.

If we can do something with this I would like that because no doubt I will be -- when I am talking with the elders in my community, they will tell me that this should be put forth -- kept in. I think we all need to sit back and, if we are doing this for the people, then let us do it for the people. Let us not do it to say and make it a personal issue in the House of who is on what committee doing what to who. That is not the situation.

Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. To the motion. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I was one of those people defeated to a previous motion but to this motion because I am concerned about the elders. This motion will give me and the other Members an opportunity to rethink, re-review what and what should be done for those people that we speak highly of. Madam Chair, I will be supporting the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. To the motion. The question is being called. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, there seems to be a lot of misunderstanding here to what I said. What I said was that this motion suggests that the committee did not do a good job. I am not suggesting the committee did not do a good job. The motion does. I believe the committee did do a good job and based on the information that you had at that time and based on the information you are going to get now, your decision is going to be the same.

-----LAUGHTER

Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Steen. To the motion. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Could we have a recorded vote on this please?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Okay. Mr. Henry is requesting a recorded vote. The question is being called. Please stand all those in favour of the motion.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Henry. Mr. Ningark. Mr. Evaloarjuk. Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Enuaraq. Mr. Picco. Mr. Roland. Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Ootes. Mr. Erasmus.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

All those opposed to the motion please stand.

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CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Krutko.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

All those abstaining from the motion please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Ng. Mrs. Thompson. Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Todd. Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Dent. Mr. Steen. Mr. Rabesca.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. I will give the results. For the motion, ten; one against; eight abstentions. The motion is carried. Does the Committee agree the Minister's Statement 86-13(3) Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program has been concluded?

It is agreed then and I will rise and report progress due to the time.

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. Item 20, report on the committee of the whole. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 20: REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 17 and Minister's Statement 86-13(3). I would like to report progress with one motion being adopted. That Minister's Statement 86-13(3) is concluded, that Bill 17 is ready for third reading, and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, seconded by Mr. Arlooktoo. Your motion is in order. To the motion, questions being called. Those in favour? Those opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 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, the meeting of the Nunavut and the Western Caucuses this evening, immediately after adjournment. Meetings for tomorrow, Thursday, at 9:00 a.m. of the Ordinary Members Caucus, at 10:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Social Programs and at twelve noon of the Management and Services Board.

Orders of the day for Thursday, October 10th:

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

12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 19-13(3)
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 16
18. Second Reading of Bills

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19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters:
 - Tabled Document 1-13(3)
 - Minister's Statement 82-13(3)
 - Bill 19
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 17
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk, this House stands adjourned to Thursday, October 10th, at 1:30 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT