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**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1996**

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**The Honourable Samuel Gargan, Speaker**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

--Prayer

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

Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

Ministers' Statement 113-13(3): Partners in a New Beginning

**HON. JAMES ANTOINE:**

Mr. Speaker, people living in the western Northwest Territories have been talking about constitutional development for the Western Territory for a number of years, and they have always come back to the same conclusion.

In order to make some decisions about how they want the Western Territory to operate up to Division, residents need a starting point -- something to look at, something to think about, and something to talk about.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my pleasure over the past four months to serve as Co-chair, along with Mr. George Kurszewski.

It was also my pleasure at a ceremony earlier today to officially present our group's Draft Constitution Package to the Aboriginal Summit, to the Western Caucus of this Legislative Assembly and to the public. I will also be tabling this package with the Legislative Assembly this afternoon.

Building on the work and the previous discussions regarding constitutional development, this package, "Partners in a New Beginning: A Draft Constitution Package" is a result of long discussions and many

meetings. And while we are presenting a document that represents collective discussion and ideas, the tabling of this document does not mark the ending of a project, but rather a starting point, and a turning point.

The aim of this package is to stimulate public discussion. From this public consultation, we hope to create a constitutional proposal for the people to ratify.

The package being presented today has two parts -- a proposed structure for the Territorial Government, and a draft companion Aboriginal Self-Government Agreement.

What we have attempted to do in this is to develop a partnership based on the concepts of Aboriginal self-government and the public Government of the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to stress that while the package highlights one model in detail, it also contains some other models of Government that we considered in the process of developing this package.

The model is not set in stone, and nothing is final.

As of today, we move into a new stage of the Constitution development process.

This package is now in the hands of the public to review, discuss and provide us comments, questions and ideas about what we have presented.

Starting in January, members of the Constitution Working Group will be going out to communities to meet with people, to hear their ideas and collect your comments on the Constitution.

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Prior to that, people are encouraged to share their ideas in writing to the Constitution Working Group, or discuss their thoughts with all of the Members of this House and with representatives of the Aboriginal Summit.

After we have gathered public input, we will review the document again, and bring back a document to be ratified by the people of the Western Territory.

Mr. Speaker, in bringing forward this document today, it is appropriate to share with Members the outcome of a meeting I had last Friday in Ottawa with the

Federal Minister of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Mr. Ron Irwin.

The focus of our discussion was the work of the Constitution Working Group.

The meeting was positive, and Mr. Irwin reconfirmed his support for a "made in the North" Constitution for the Western Territory.

But while support from Mr. Irwin and the Federal Government is an important step in this process, what is even more important is the support and input from the people who are residents of what will be the new Western Territory.

As residents of the Western Territory, we are all partners in a new beginning and a strong future for the North.

And, Mr. Speaker, I believe with this milestone today, we move one step closer to fulfilling the priority of this Legislative Assembly, to make both Nunavut and the Western Territory a reality.

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mahsi, Jim. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Minister's Statement 114-13(3): Child Welfare

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of our most precious resource, the children of the North.

Our children are our future. They will be the ones to bring us to prosperity; they will be the ones who will become our leaders in the 21st Century; they will be the ones who care for us as we grow old.

The people of the North are very protective of their resources, as they should be.

We recognize our dependency on the land and on the sea. We develop, harvest and manage our natural resources carefully. We are always attentive to our obligation to provide for future generations, and we are ever mindful of how fragile our environment really is.

But sometimes it seems we forget how fragile our children are.

As our most precious resource, children are also our most vulnerable resource. They continue to be exposed to family violence, to crime, to alcohol abuse, to illness, to accident and injury, and they suffer as a result.

Increasingly, children are being taken into care because they need to be protected from harm.

Our social workers are doing everything that they can to protect children, but it does not seem to be enough.

Other care givers such as nurses, foster parents, teachers, counsellors of all sorts, as well as concerned members of the community, are doing everything that they can.

But that does not seem to be enough.

The need, obligation and responsibility to protect children does not fall solely on the shoulders of government.

This responsibility must be met by those of us in this Assembly, by every parent, every family member, and every member of the community.

We must do everything that we can to ensure our children are born healthy, raised in a protective and

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nurturing home and community, and kept safe from harm.

We owe them nothing less, since without our children we have no future.

In the next Session, I will introduce new child welfare legislation which gives communities the power to make decisions about taking children into care.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I call on all Members of this House to support a renewed emphasis on child welfare to help keep all children safe.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Minister's Statement 115-13(3): 95/96 Business Development Fund Annual Report

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, later today I will table a copy of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development's Business Development Fund Annual Report for the 1995/96 fiscal year.

Members are provided on a regular basis with a list of contributions which my Department has approved to businesses in their constituency. In this report a summary and breakdown is provided of all the contributions approved in the preceding fiscal year.

I am pleased to make this information available to Members of the Assembly and to note some of the highlights of the report which are evidence, I believe, of our ongoing commitment to assist the private sector and to help business enterprise grow and prosper during these difficult times.

The Department approved 246 contributions during the 1995/96 fiscal year with funding averaging \$12,456 per approval. Consistent with trends in other years, the Department made a greater number of contributions to level 3 communities as compared with those in levels 1 and 2. Evidence, Mr. Speaker, that funds are going to the most needy businesses - those who by virtue of their remote location share systemic constraints to growth.

In keeping with our efforts to promote opportunities with and for Aboriginal businesses, I am also pleased to note that contributions to Aboriginal businesses accounted for 78% of the total fund with the majority of these approvals toward business creation projects.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the spirit and enthusiasm of the Northwest Territories business community and extend to them our commitment for ongoing service and assistance. Through the efforts of the business community the economy of the Northwest Territories will continue to grow at a significant rate.

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Ministers' Statements, Mr. Kakfwi.

Minister's Statement 116-13(3): Small Business Week

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. October 21-15 this year is Small Business Week across Canada and as the

Minister responsible, I wish to acknowledge this occasion, and salute the many entrepreneurs and small business people who make their living in this sector across the North.

As Minister of this Portfolio, I have the privilege to meet with many small business people on a regular basis and to learn first hand about their ideas, their challenges and their aspirations.

As a group, small business people tend to be tenacious in pursuit of their enterprise. This quality, I believe, is critical, given the current economic climate and the challenging environment we have here in the North. To prosper and survive in this environment, small business people must be resourceful, they must be visionary and they must live their business 24 hours a day.

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Apart from the skills and determination which small business people require, they also need access to capital, information, and marketplaces. There are many agencies and financial institutions where small business people can acquire loans or contributions. Our own Business Development Fund provided some \$3.1 million in contributions in 1995/96 alone to some 246 applicants, and the Business Credit Corporation provided \$8.0 million in loans.

There are new efforts as well to establish improved ways of accessing capital. I am speaking here about our Government's efforts to work with the Federal Government to establish a New Immigrant Investor Fund which will provide new sources of offshore capital for investment into the Northwest Territories. This Government is acutely aware of the frustrations which small business people face in their efforts to acquire sources of capital and we are making efforts to improve this situation.

The key to business prosperity in the future will be information. As we enter the 21st century, a new age of business enterprise is emerging characterized by global markets, new technologies and a new and heightened competition. To remain competitive, the small business person in the North will require information. This information will be the currency of the future.

Recently I signed an agreement with Industry Canada to establish a new Canada/NWT Business Service Centre. This new centre, which is currently in operation on a trial basis, houses some very

advanced computer equipment and will connect the North to a wide range of business oriented databases, both public and private. I invite Members of this Assembly to an open house scheduled for the 17th and 18th of this month to see this centre and to develop an appreciation of its capabilities so that you can better advise your constituents about the services which it has to offer. The centre I believe, will be a valuable aid to small business people who can call in on a 1-800 line and seek information about products, markets and Government services.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work that small business people do across the North. On behalf of the Government, I offer our recognition to this key group of Northerners who continue to contribute so much to our growing economy. I invite you to join me in extending our support on the occasion of this upcoming Small Business Week to this key sector in our economy.

Thank you very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 117-13(3): Education, Culture, and Employment's Web Site

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, a new digital communications network will link all NWT communities to the information highway by March of 1998. In anticipation of this development, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment has produced a new site on the World Wide Web.

The new website will provide one-window access by computer to the Department's programs and services for the public, as well as resources and courses for students in the school system and colleges. For example, the website will provide students with on-line access to the Encyclopedia Britannica. By the first semester of 1997, many secondary students will be able to take courses on-line.

The website will also provide a central location for teachers to share ideas and resources, including support material, course outlines and lesson plans.

Concerns have been raised for many years, Mr. Speaker, that students in remote locations may not be

receiving the same standard of education as those in larger communities. The new communications network will ensure that all students have the same access to learning materials.

Mr. Speaker, the Department is working with

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Divisional Education Councils, the two Yellowknife Divisional Educational Authorities and the public colleges to make sure the web site can support distance learning, extension of high school grades, and provide better opportunities for students of all ages across the Territories.

To keep pace with advancing technology, the Department has committed \$1.2 million this year to initiate the Information Networks Development Project. The project includes the design and delivery of programs and courses, setting up a central, computerized source of information, and enhancing the use of local computer networks among community educators.

We intend to assist educators, staff trainers, their clients and learners of all ages, in all communities, to develop and use the technology effectively. The Department is now evaluating proposals from Divisional Education Councils and the Colleges which address these areas.

The web site has been developed for the Department by a new Yellowknife company. The Department has also recently called for proposals from northern companies to produce web pages and computer graphics. None of these companies existed until the information highway came to the North. This shows that the information highway holds a lot of potential for jobs and other economic benefits in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I invite Members of the Assembly, and members of the media, to drop by and try out the website on the computers which Department staff have set up in the Legislative Library. Staff members will be available throughout the afternoon and after the session ends today to show you how the website works.

The Department's new web site will continue to expand as new resources are developed and added. I hope you will explore the site today, and return to it frequently in the coming months.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Ministers' Statements.  
Members' Statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement On Draft Constitution Package  
For the New Western Territory

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today the honourable Member from Nahendeh will be tabling a Draft Constitution Package on behalf of the Constitutional Working Group. Over the summer, Members of the Western Caucus of the Legislative Assembly have been working with the members of the Aboriginal Summit to prepare this package for consideration by the people of the western Northwest Territories. For the first time, Representatives, public and Aboriginal Governments came together, not to negotiate, but to work as partners towards a common goal. Although the Constitutional Working Group involved partnerships between two Governments, we also tried to involve those who represented other interests. We kept the Northwest Territories Association, the municipalities and the Status of Women and the Native Women's Association in touch with our work.

We move into the crucial consultation phase, where the Western Caucus has guaranteed a place at the table for these groups through the public Government side.

Mr. Speaker, when people see this package, they will have many questions. Why can we not keep what we have? Why do we need a partnership between public and Aboriginal self-government? Why are there guaranteed seats for Aboriginal Governments? Are Aboriginal people giving up their inherent rights to be part of this proposal? Why do some people get to vote for two representatives?

Mr. Speaker, members of the Western Caucus and the Working Group also had these questions. While we did not agree on everything, most of us agreed with the explanations put forward. We decided to give

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the package a chance. Hopefully over the next few months people across the Western Territory will also do that. They will raise questions and seek answers. Where they do not like the answers, we hope they will

not walk away, but give constructive suggestions for how to make this package better.

The Working Group was operating under very tight time lines and focused energy on producing a concrete package. As a result, there are also questions which the Constitutional Working Group does not have answers for yet. For example, while most members have talked about the concept of "one person, one vote" in a ratification process, there are many ways that could be done. We will have to look at the details of this ratification process.

The members of the Western Caucus support a full consultation process to gather the response of our constituents for this draft package. We do not see the package as a final choice, but rather as a blue print which we can refine together. Learning from the comments and suggestions of the public...Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent to conclude my statement?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The member for Thebacha seeking unanimous consent to conclude statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays, you have unanimous consent.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Learning from the comments and suggestions of the public, we will continue to work in partnership with the members of the aboriginal summit towards a final constitution package which has the support of the residents of the New Western Territory.

It is now time for the people of the Western Territory to give us feedback and direction on the package being tabled today.

Mr. Speaker, there is much to talk about over the coming months. We all have a role to play and a contribution to make. We all want what is best for the Western Territory, for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren. The members of Western Caucus urge all residents of the Western Territory to seize this historic opportunity. In the next eight months, lets continue that partnership which has been developed over the summer. Let us find a solution we can all live with as we shape a truly northern destiny. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Draft Constitution Package For the New Western Territory

**MR. BARNABAS:**

(Translator) Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BARNABAS:**

It is a significant day for all residents of the Northwestern Territories. With the release of the draft constitutional package. On behalf of the members of Nunavut Caucus and of all residents in Nunavut, I would like to congratulate members of the Constitutional Working Group on their successful partnership and tireless efforts which have resulted in the draft constitutional package for consideration by the people of the soon to be new Western Territory.

In Nunavut, we know the importance of all people working together to achieve a common goal. It is through similar partnership that we are working towards our goal of creating Nunavut in 1999. It takes cooperation and compromise from all parties to reach agreement on something as important as constitution.

Mr. Speaker, people in Western Territory have always been supportive in our desire for the creation of Nunavut. Now it is time for the people of Nunavut to show support for their neighbours in the west.

Mr. Speaker, April 1, 1999, is now less than 900 days away and time is of the essence. Residents of the east and the west can not afford to lose any more time. It is critical that both territories get off on the right foot.

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Mr. Speaker, the release of the Draft Constitution Package is an important step for people in the west and we at the east wish them great success. People in the Northwest Territories have a history of working together and I am sure that this spirit of cooperation will continue after 1999. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you Mr. Barnabas. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement On Draft Constitution Package For the New Western Territory

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to open my statement by complimenting members of the Constitutional Working Group for the time and effort they have devoted to drafting a Constitution Package. This committee was assigned a daunting task. They were asked to design a form of government that blends Aboriginal institutions with parliamentary democracy. They were given about four months to do it. Given the mandate, I believe their model takes important steps towards achieving the goals of combining public government and self government. Having said that, I also believe this package is going to cause much debate. I know many of my constituents will find the ideas in the document adventurous.

Mr. Speaker, the time to review this draft is restricted. I encourage citizens and groups of citizens to become involved in the dialogue. We need participation and we need consensus. The stakes are too high to allow the politicians sole ownership of the process. In the coming weeks and months, I am going to do everything in my power to ensure the voices from Yellowknife centre are not lost. I want my constituents to be heard and I want to make their opinions count as we finalize the package. Finally, I want to be sure everyone has a chance to vote on the final draft in a plebiscite.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by saying I am heading into this process with an open mind and open ears. I will be taking directions from my constituents. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On The Need To Live Within Our Fiscal Means

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give voice to longer term issues which will impact on all of our children. Everywhere in southern Canada, our major funding source, we are seeing governments and corporations deeply changing to build productivity. Trimming expectations to more realistic levels, carefully ranking all spending items. This territorial administration must now start to live within its means by setting closely measured priorities. Our

fiscal adjustments cannot simply reduce spending to lower bottom lines, but also must reorganize for new efficiencies in the way government does things. Otherwise, other ordinary people will ultimately suffer because serious needs will not go away. People will still get sick, children will still need education.

With reductions in spending in the order of 25% and more, and many critical services in the mainstream, the Territories can no longer pretend that our unique geographic circumstance can protect us from doing our share in assisting Canada to live within its means. In order to do our share, we will have to accurately identify and remove non-performing waste wherever it is found within this administration. The penalty for not doing so in a serious revenue downturn, would be that the most needy in our society - the young, the old, the sick, the poor, women, the unemployed - would be abandoned. There are too many signs that the unravelling has already begun. Our first step in managing the situation is to study where we are at, at the present time. Detailed accountability through fuller disclosure is the first minimum step that we must take before sensible debate can begin. Why? Because public dollars spent for public purposes is public information. No cost to the current decisional discretion, you say, is \$9 too much? I fear not.

Mr. Speaker, consider the fiscal secrecy of this

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administration effectively limits debate by inhibiting citizens who could offer support of direction and guidance to their MLAs, and further discourages entrepreneurs from proposing cost effective, privately levered, public service alternatives. Just the kind of things we all say we support. With these new directions under way, I am confident that at the end of the day, it will be a territorial people that will increasingly look after their own government. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Draft Constitution Package For the New Western Territory

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, this afternoon we will start a long path to settle the constitution for the Western Territory. After many

years of consultation and months of hard work, the Committee has come up with a draft, and I believe this is a starting point. We will now take it to our people for their input. I encourage everyone to review this document, I look forward to visiting my constituency, and to discussing the likes and dislikes they feel towards this important document.

We have come a long way over the past numbers of years since my last term in this Assembly, and I feel that this is another step in our goals to eventually receive provincial status and to provide a government that is, and as stated by the great President, for the people, by the people. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Draft Constitution Package For the New Western Territory

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Today is a unique day for people in the Western Territory, to embark on a voyage into 1999 Division, and also to look at a new, coming together of Aboriginal governments and public governments. We have to take and keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, we are unique in a sense of the territory we live in, the country we live in, and the environment that we are presently under. We have land claim settlements. We have land claims being negotiated, we have self government processes under way, and so we also have a constitutional process. Keeping in mind that this is going to take us into the next decade, we have to allow the process to take its toll and allow the people a chance to speak. In regards to the process that we are under, we have to work together to bring people closer together than having two institutions of government - a federal government in Ottawa which consists of Indian Affairs, and the Government of the Northwest Territories who deliver programs and services on behalf of that Government.

We in the north have an opportunity to deliver a program for all northerners, I would like to state - all northerners. We have an avenue to allow communities that consist of band councils, Metis locals, hamlet councils, and also in larger centres such as Yellowknife, which consists of the largest Aboriginal community in the Western Territory to work along with the residents on the Aboriginal side, especially in relation to program delivery, and also



delivery of healthy communities. We talk about community empowerment, we talk about allowing the people to live together and to work together in a new way of government. This is that opportunity for the people in the north, especially in the Western Territory, please take advantage of this opportunity. It may only come once in this lifetime. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On The Need To Achieve Efficiency and Fairness through Government Restructuring

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Honourable members. I would like to send greetings back home to my wife and children. Mr. Speaker, we heard the talk today

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on changing the way this government does business. As we look back on our first year, we started out very eager to make changes. A large majority of us agreed this Government cannot do business as it has in the past. This Government was going to become more efficient and effective as MLAs and departments. So we set out to make a difference, a positive difference, and as these changes have been occurring, we have been able to get feedback from the communities.

Mr. Speaker, some of the feedback is not positive. There are people in our constituencies saying we have no plan. That we are continuing down a path that is not marked out, that our cart is without a horse. Mr. Speaker, as we look at the business plans for '97-'98 we need to look at exactly what is effective and what is efficient. We need to make this more than a budget cutting exercise. We need to ask - has the business plan for '96-'97 achieved effectiveness and efficiency, and we need to be asking in the upcoming business plans - will this achieve effectiveness and efficiency? I know that Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Ministers in the committee meetings I attend if the plans they are putting before me are going to achieve effectiveness and efficiency. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you Mr. Roland. Members' statements, members' statements, Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement On Draft Constitution Package For the New Western Territory

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today a draft constitution for the new western arctic is being tabled in this House. This document is being prepared by the Constitutional Development Steering Committee, the Western caucus and Aboriginal summit. It is being presented today to the citizens of the Northwest Territories for review, this is not the be all and end all but a starting point where each citizen can provide input into the constitution that will govern our future. Over the next few months, we will be receiving input as to whether or not this draft is what the people want. I urge all, especially western MLAs of this government to make yourself available to your people, find out what they have to say, bring their input back, so that we can create a constitution that is truly reflective of the people that we govern. That, Mr. Speaker is our challenge, the real challenge goes to the residents of the Northwest Territories who will have to provide us with their comments and concerns. We need to hear from them, we need to hear what they like and don't like in the package, and what we can do to make this a constitution all and for the people of the new Western Territory. If we fail to create a constitution for the new Western Territory, we will be left with the NWT Act. Mr. Speaker, I think we are ready to go beyond this and can carve out our own future. Let's all work toward making this happen, for the future generation. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Members Statement, Mr. Kakfwi.

Member's Statement On Draft Constitution Package For the New Western Territory

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. It is an historical occasion, one which I think will mark a time which people will either come closer together or there will be an occasion to mark this as a point when we widen the gap between our peoples' once again. Members will recall in the records of Hansard, there was a debate in the 70s where in spite of the opposition of the Aboriginal people of the Mackenzie Valley against the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline. Members of the legislature at that time decided that the interests of Canada and the interest of the Northwest Territories

was in supporting the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline and was highlighted by the rhetoric of members that represented Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, I believe that there was major damage done, major damage to relations to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. That was done in 1975 and has taken 20 years to get us back to this stage, and I believe that what we

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require now is leadership, not populous, not pure politicians, but leadership, leadership that will challenge people to listen and hear each other. Leadership that will challenge the people to face their own misperceptions of each other. Leaders that will ask their constituents to confront the fears and the biases that they hold, personally, I am prepared to challenge my constituents and my people to rise above their own fears, their own needs, their own misperceptions, and to generally seek to hear other people's concerns and needs and see what could be done. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The member for Sahtu is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Kakfwi. You have consent.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I think recent political history points out very, very clearly that it is the Aboriginal people of the Mackenzie Valley of the north that have taken the lead in seeking change and have actually made commitments to the change. These are reflected in the Inuit struggling and obtaining, struggling for and obtaining a dream of creating their own territory, their own government. Aboriginal people in the Mackenzie Valley, Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in, the Sahtu, the Deh Cho have all stated very clearly and have some in legislation committed to creating new forms of government. But is still not clear and unheard that is still being demanded with the initiation of this discussion and public dialogue is the clear demonstration of the non-Aboriginal public that they too are prepared, not only in rhetoric but in some substantive form, commit to making changes to the institutions of government to the institutions that we are forced to live with today. Mr. Speaker in the next few weeks, I believe all Aboriginal leaders will be looking to the people of Yellowknife, Hay River and Norman Wells and other centres where the non-Aboriginal people live to hear some expression that

they are prepared to make some substantive changes and to be open to hearing the needs of people and to discuss ways in which those can be met. Thank you very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Members' statements, Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On Draft Constitution Package For the New Western Territory

**HON. JAMES ANTOINE:**

(Translator) Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seldom talk in my own language, so I would like to take advantage of it today and talk in my own language. What I will be talking about today is the constitutional package that was tabled today. The Dene, the Aboriginal people, when we are talking about the Aboriginal self government, that they actually want to govern themselves and the reason they wish to govern themselves is because they believe this part of the country is their land. When we are sitting today at the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Assembly has been in the Northwest Territories for quite a few years. There are a lot of issues from the NWT that concern the North and concern the people from the communities that are seldom brought up today.

There are a lot of issues concerning all the communities in the North. There is one that we have really worked on, it is a paper on how we can work together, it is called the Draft Constitution Package, we have worked on this paper quite extensively and the Ministers and the ordinary members have sat together to work on this paper. We have worked on it pretty well all summer and after all the meetings that we went through regarding this, we finally tabled this constitutional development paper today. Why we tabled it today is because we want to hear the input from the communities. We would like to hear from them, what they think of what this constitutional paper, and if there is anything that they like or dislike about this constitutional paper, we would like to hear from them, and after all the consultations have been done... My time has run out. I would like to seek unanimous consent to continue what I am saying.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JAMES ANTOINE:**

(Translator) Thank you Mr. Speaker. What I am saying is the item we are working on is very important, so we should all read it and get to know it really well, and then we can continue working on it. Some of the people have not read it and yet, they are talking in such a way it sounds like they dislike it, but I don't feel that it is right. What we should do is, we should leave it, get to know it and discuss it and then maybe we can come up with something better. This is what I am saying today, and since at the time I would like to express that and in the future we can keep working on it, and the people who would like to have some input into it, they are welcome to voice their opinions. In the future if everybody is in agreement maybe we can eventually ratify it and I also think eventually it will be finished with and we are not the only ones who should be having input into it. In Ottawa, the Federal Government, the Minister of Aboriginal Indian Affairs and Northern Development, he also has to get to know it and if he agrees with the document and then they will be coming up with a legislation and through the NWT Act it will come about. I am thankful that I am able to talk to you about this today, and in the future we will be continuing to talk about it, so this is what I want to say today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. I have some difficulty, did you make your statement as a Minister or as a Member. Just to remind the Ministers that they may make statements as Ministers regarding item that are under their responsibilities and that Members' statement is for other than what they wish to speak to, that is not their responsibility. Just to remind the member of that. Members' statements, Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement On Draft Constitution Package For the New Western Territory

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. My statement today is on the Draft Constitution Package that is being presented to the public for review and comment. Mr. Speaker, during my campaign last year, I went through the Yellowknife North riding. I heard many times that

people were afraid that Yellowknife was going to become an isolated state, isolated from the rest of the west. Many of these people are long term northerners, others were not, but all of them recognized that Aboriginal people have the inherent right to govern themselves, this is a right of all people, it is an international law. These people were afraid that regional self-government negotiations would result in strong regional governments. Maybe, it would even split the west into several territories. These people are afraid the system described in the Bourque report could result in Yellowknife being isolated from the communities. They were talking about the "we", "they", "us", "them" syndrome. This summer and into late last night, I worked on this Constitution Package. I worked to bring Aboriginal self-government and public government together into a central government in hopes that it would not result in an isolated Yellowknife, and Yellowknife being a state unto itself. Mr Speaker, this is not a perfect document, but it is the starting point that people said they wanted.

People said that never before had this Assembly prepared a draft constitution for them to discuss. We have done that. There is a draft constitution for people to review. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. In reviewing this draft package, I urge people to have open minds, to read the document, before you close your minds to new ideas. See the checks and balances before you criticize. Remember that it is a starting point. It

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is time for the public to review the package, to evaluate the ideas in there, and to comment. It will then be our jobs to revise what is in there, and to bring something back to the people to vote upon. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. Morin.

Member's Statement On Draft Constitution Package  
For the New Western Territory

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to rise as a Member for Tu Nedhe today. It has been exactly one year today, I believe, that all of us ran for an election in 1995. We have been here for a year, elected for a year; I think it took three weeks to a month to be sworn into office, so we have not quite been at our duties for a full year. I look back over that year and see the accomplishments of Members of this Assembly on behalf of the people who elected them. Today is an important day. The Working Group of Constitutional Development will later on today table "Partners in a New Beginning", a Draft Constitution Package.

That document has been a long time in coming. People of the North have said they have heard enough talk, they want action. They do have that. Now it is up to the people of the North to be positive and move ahead and look at these things with open minds.

Mr. Speaker, I remember when I had the privilege of being elected to this Assembly, some nine years ago. I came here with a fairly narrow perspective on life in general, because I was living in Fort Resolution, and knew only the riding of Tu Nedhe. I did not really know what was happening in the other parts of the North, especially the eastern arctic. Since that time, I have had the privilege to grow and meet people throughout the Northwest Territories, and people up and down the valley. I have a general feeling that people in the Northwest Territories want to work together to keep the Western Territory together and move it ahead into the next century, as a one Government system, where it recognizes that Aboriginal people do have a right to self-government. It also recognizes reality, that we as Northerners have to work together. That is the way it has always happened in the past, regardless of whether you talk about the fur trade, or you sit and you listen to what elders say. All the time in the past, people worked together. That is how they survived.

Well, I think today, that we have to work together; all people in the Northwest Territories--in order to survive.

Mr. Speaker, in my office I have this saying on my wall, that the press will always come up with the negatives, so think positive and try to get across the

positive message. And once again, the press have not let us down, and they have come out on the negative. But that should not be new to any of our Members here, as long as the public realizes that you cannot believe everything that is being said in the newspapers.

This is a good day for Northerners, and it is a good day for all Northerners. We must move ahead. We do not need the rhetoric of some politicians already coming out, elected leaders in the North, speaking against this Constitution, calling it apartheid, calling it a South African-type document. This is good for the North. We have to work together. We will work together. We will overcome the negativeness and we will work positively and we will have the Constitution made in the North by Northerners by April 1, 1999.

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Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements?

Mr. Morin, (Translator) What Mr. Morin has said, I really agree with. It has almost been a year since we have been elected to sit in the House. There is a Constitutional paper that was brought out today. I would like to say something about this paper, but it is kind of difficult for me. The people from the western arctic, the Aboriginals, the non-Aboriginals, they are kind of reluctant when they think about this Constitutional paper. I would like to inform them that this Constitution is on behalf of all of us. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Ng.

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

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

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I return to Oral Question asked by Mr. Miltenberger on October 8, 1996, in respect to the status of Trailcross facility privatization.

Trailcross will be in operation on November 1, 1996. To date no former employees have been hired, although one resident of Fort Smith has been hired in

a clerical position. No other job offers have yet been made, since the contractor is still in the process of reviewing applications and interviewing selected candidates.

To date, two former employees have been interviewed. The contractor, Integrated Human Resource, is committed to hiring in the North, and has only been reviewing applications from the North. Most of the applications have been from Fort Smith. Interviews were conducted in Fort Smith during the week of October 1, and will again be conducted in Fort Smith this week.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Recognition of visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**MR. KRUTKO:**

I would like to recognize Pat Thomas, Teacher's Federation, also the union...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the Gallery. I would like to recognize my sister in the Gallery. Sarah is the eighth eldest or the fifth youngest, you could choose, Sarah.

Recognition of visitors in the Gallery.

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 496-13(3): Teacher's Staff Housing in Fort McPherson

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Right Honourable John Todd. It is in relation to housing for teachers. There was a statement on the radio this morning about a problem in Fort McPherson with staff housing. I had a discussion with the Minister on this, and I thought it was resolved. Could the Minister brief me on exactly where it is at?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Again, to remind the Members that a Minister cannot confirm or deny any media reports, whether it is radio or newspapers. Perhaps the Member would like to rephrase his question.

Question 496-13(3): Teacher's Staff Housing in Fort McPherson

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Mr. John Todd. It is in regards to the housing problem that is in my riding, especially Fort McPherson. Could you give me an update on exactly what has been done up to date?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 496-13(3): Teacher's Staff Housing in Fort McPherson

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**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe my Honourable colleague is alluding to the CBC interview this morning by some teachers in Fort McPherson, who for one reason or another, which is incomprehensible to me, seemed to be unable to find the \$73,000 to buy a six-plex. When I was advised of it this morning, I thought it meant per unit, until I was told it was for all six. So it is approximately \$12,000 a unit.

We have asked them if they would like to make an offer on it, and the implication, I believe, in the CBC thing, is that we were treating them insensitively and uncaring and unkind. I frankly, Mr. Speaker, do not understand the issue. They have the option to purchase a six-plex, which is all occupied. The face value of that unit, and to make it public, is \$73,000. It is inconceivable to me that these people are not prepared to purchase this unit.

If they are not prepared to purchase it, we will, as I have said, on a number of occasions, provide that opportunity to the people of Fort McPherson, whether it is the Gwich'in people or others in his constituency, to purchase that unit, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral question. Supplementary. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 496-13(3): Teacher's Staff Housing in Fort McPherson

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could you give me the time frames on when you expect to start looking at taking offers from the other organizations or other interested parties in the community who may be looking for housing in my riding?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 496-13(3): Teacher's Staff Housing in Fort McPherson

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Speaker, I said last week in the House that we were going to provide our employees with an additional sixty days, to the end of November, I have to get this right, to make an offer on the units.

After the end of November, we will then work out a formula for providing a means in which the communities can purchase units. We have to find some way in, we are working on that, to secure housing for the teachers, and to ensure that those who purchase them will provide that housing at an affordable rent. I think on this issue, particularly, I mean, it is an issue because it is on CBC and they are implying that we are being insensitive. And this issue is straight math, Mr. Speaker. The rents more than surpass any mortgage payments they may wish to purchase and the appraised value of the units is a reflection of the condition of it.

I would hope that this particular unit and these particular employees, who happen to be teachers, would have sober second thought, see that this is an opportunity, not a problem, purchase the unit and get on with doing what they do best - teaching our children and balancing the budget. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, oral question, supplementary, Mr. Krutko. No? Oral questions, Mr. O'Brien.

Question 497-13(3): Consequences of Not Meeting Reduction Targets

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last year the GNWT was forced to cut about \$100 million from the territorial budget in order to meet the targets of the Deficit Elimination Act. This year, once again, we are looking at reducing the same amount, if not more, to meet these targets. My question is to the Minister of Finance. What are the legal consequences if the deficit elimination targets are not met?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I would like to ask the member if he might be able to rephrase his question. You are asking a Minister a legal opinion or a legal result if the Deficit Elimination Act is not met. Would you like to rephrase your

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question, Mr. O'Brien?

Question 497-13(3): Consequences of Not Meeting Reduction Targets

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to be a little gentler. What are the consequences if these targets are not met?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Finance.

Return To Question 497-13(3): Consequences of Not Meeting Reduction Targets

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good question. Legislation was brought in, as we know, by the previous legislature, by some members in this House. That legislation puts us in the position where we have to balance the budget, I am not trying to avoid the question here, Mr. Speaker, I am trying to answer it in the proper way. Although I see some of my colleagues giggling.

We have to balance the budget by 1997/98 and if we want to balance the budget then we, collectively, would have to decide what we are going to do because we would not meet the legislation that was set for this House. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 497-13(3):  
Consequences of Not Meeting Reduction Targets

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you. Mr. Speaker, I will rephrase my question again and ask, what are the actual consequences?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Again, to remind the members that the question itself is hypothetical because, every time you use a term "if" then you are asking the Minister to guess the result of a situation that has not happened yet, and so, as a member would you like to rephrase your question and say what might happen, maybe, no? No. As a member if you might be able to rephrase this question. Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 497-13(3):  
Consequences of Not Meeting Reduction Targets

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I can rephrase my question to say what will happen if the targets are not met?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Again, every time the member uses the phrase "what if" or "if" then it is hypothetical because you are asking the Minister to guess. I ask the member to rephrase his question again. Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 497-13(3):  
Consequences of Not Meeting Reduction Targets

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Mr. Speaker, since the Minister is having such a difficult time in answering my question, I will withdraw the question. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Again, the member has made reference to the Minister having a difficult time responding to a question, but the Minister cannot answer the question, because you are asking the Minister to guess.

Oral question, Mr. Roland.

Question 498-13(3): Effectiveness and Efficiency in  
GNWT Programs

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you heard in my members' statement, concern for effectiveness and efficiency, my question will be directed to the Minister responsible for FMBS. Has this government in its plans addressed effectiveness and efficiency in the business plans?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 498-13(3): Effectiveness and Efficiency in GNWT Programs

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that my honourable colleague has expressed concern about the business plans and the fairness and equity of them on a number of occasions in this House and, if I may say, for the public record, a legitimate concern. I believe we are trying to address fairness and equity as well

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as effectiveness and efficiency and I hope that we demonstrated that in the last twelve months, however, difficult it has been, I wanted to remind everybody that we had a plan in place to balance the budget and I agree with my honourable colleague's statement the other day, that we need to get beyond balancing the budget and get on to the more productive aspects of governing.

I believe that the balanced budget deficit elimination strategy is on target. That we will meet the requirements of the Deficit Elimination Act and, at the same time, be able to move forward in looking at productive ways in which to service the people we represent. So, in short, Mr. Speaker, I hope that the new business plans for 97/98 will be able to demonstrate to my colleague that there is an effective and fairness to it and I am confident that if it is not, that my colleague, as well as others, will be able to draw that to our attention and any changes and recommendations they wish to make in this consensus committee style government that we are currently working with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral question supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 498-13(3): Effectiveness and Efficiency in GNWT Programs

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree that the fairness issue needs to be dealt with and I believe that we have got that message across, thank you very much. On the efficiency of government, we have in some cases, as it is seen from the outside, been dealing with strictly numbers, the human factor seems to have been taken out. So, my question is, in our effectiveness and trying to achieve efficiency, have we reduced the way the work is done within government? We have reduced the layers, to some degree, of people, but have we reduced the way the work gets done? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 498-13(3): Effectiveness and Efficiency in GNWT Programs

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Well, I would hope so, Mr. Speaker. I guess that would be one way to respond to it. I believe that we have taken a very direct approach in empowering management at the community, regional and headquarters level, that we have pushed out both the fiscal responsibility as well as the managerial responsibility in a genuine effort to improve the efficiency and the delivery of programs and services, and after all, that is what we are here for, to deliver to those in the communities and in large centres like Iqaluit, like Yellowknife, like Fort Smith and Hay River.

I believe in the short twelve months that we have been here that we have accomplished a great deal in being able to do that, I would hope, again, that the business plans that the committees will be looking at shortly next week, will reflect that and, it is certainly not our intent, when we looked at our strategy to run government more efficiently, not to look at it in a caring and sensitive way.

I want to remind members that, nobody is immune from these cuts, nobody. Including the Finance Minister, who I have said on a number of occasions, my own family have lost jobs in this cutting process, and still do not have one. So, I think it is important for everybody to understand that I am very sensitive to the fact that we are laying off people, contrary to what some may think in this House or upstairs, I am very

sensitive about the fact that we are laying people off. We have to find a way and a means in which to do it in a compassionate and caring way. But, at the end of the day, we must balance the budget. I have to come back to that, whether my honourable colleague likes it or not.

But I think we have to move on once we go through these business plans, on to new opportunities for our people and the people we represent and I believe, Mr. Kakfwi and other are proceeding with that in terms of

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some of the strategic plans that are in place in relationship to the mineral accord, in relationship to other aspects, Mr. Dent in relationship to job opportunities, etcetera. The changes that Mr. Ng is making in Health and Social Services and Corrections, these are all positive things as we move forward, and I hope that when my colleague reviews the business plans that will be reflected in them, and he will be assured that we are doing this in a manner, where, we have a plan, we know where we are going, and I certainly know where we want to end up. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral question. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary to Question 498-13(3): Effectiveness and Efficiency in GNWT Programs

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister on expounding on a lot more information than I thought I would get. But my question goes back to the way we deliver. We have heard about it, and people in my community agree, I have talked to people about the way things are done, and they agree that things need to be done and they will be tough. There are others that do not agree with that. What I am getting to is what we have left as a work force, are still required to do the same amount of paperwork that they had before, with less personnel. So are we reducing the amount of forms that have to be filled out, when a person comes into one's office, then gets delivered a program. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.



Further Return To Question 498-13(3): Effectiveness and Efficiency in GNWT Programs

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

My apologies, Mr. Speaker. Now I understand where my colleague is coming from. Operationally, how we are making the government more efficient, reducing the paper flow, etcetera, I think the simple and short answer is, yes. I think we have made some major strides. For example, I remember the days when I was in government, an LPA, I think that is what it was, was \$250. It is now under the Department of Public Works, \$5,000, that allows the management team to quickly make decisions to expend where it is required in services. Other changes have been made in the FMBS, as the decision making to reducing the paper. The loan applications are down to one, two pages at the most. There are a whole series of...I could go on all day, but I am sure my colleague would prefer I did not. He has heard it before. There is a whole series of initiatives and changes that we are taking. No, we are not going to be perfect. There is no question of that. There are going to be weaknesses and gaps. There are going to be dissidents. There are going to people who are discontent with what we are doing. But we have to believe at the end of the day, that what we are doing is right. We have to believe at the end of the day, that we are trying to make government more efficient, smaller. Six thousand territorial employees for 67,000 people. Nowhere else in the free world does that exist, Mr. Speaker. We must find a way to reduce the size of the civil service, to ensure that there is adequate money left to deliver to those people that need it the most.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 499-13(3): GNWT Policy on Placement of Aboriginal Children

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister Responsible for Health and Social Services. It is in relation to his statement today about our most precious resource, children. And the fact that recently children are being taken into care because they need to be protected from harm. Mr. Speaker, when I was going to school in Saskatchewan, just about every week, there were stories in the papers about the fact that the Aboriginal children were being put back into the Aboriginal community. Whereas, they had not

been before. So they were actually taking Aboriginal children from non-Aboriginal homes, and putting them back with their Aboriginal people. I would like to

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know what is this government's policy, in placing Aboriginal children with Aboriginal foster parents?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 499-13(3): GNWT Policy on Placement of Aboriginal Children

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the first priority would be to place an Aboriginal child with an Aboriginal family, if that was available to the individual. Failing that, of course we would try to make sure that they get placed as a priority into a safe home, regardless of where the Aboriginal background of that foster parent family would be, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary to Question 499-13(3): GNWT Policy on Placement of Aboriginal Children

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Has there been a drive to recruit Aboriginal foster parents in Yellowknife, and other large centres?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return to Question 499-13(3): GNWT Policy on Placement of Aboriginal Children

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is and continues to be a recruiting process in trying to expand the number of Foster Parents available for all communities because of the fact that you always to have more available than you need, hopefully, so that you run a situation where you are in dire straits of not

having an available Foster parent/family to place a child that might be at risk, Mr. Speaker, Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 499-13(3): GNWT Policy on Placement of Aboriginal Children

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you. Mr. Speaker I have six or seven brothers and sisters who have families, and in speaking to them, and in speaking to them none of them have been approached about being foster parents. What I would like to know is how many foster children in Yellowknife are in Aboriginal and how many are in non-Aboriginal homes?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 499-13(3): GNWT Policy on Placement of Aboriginal Children

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, obviously I would not have that detail of information with me so I will take that question as notice and provide the information to the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 500-13(3): Raising the Price of Heating Fuel

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is for the Minister for the Department of Public Works. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister confirm that this Government is going to raise the price of home heating and other fuels? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for Public Works, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 500-13(3): Raising the Price of Heating Fuel

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker. I cannot confirm right now whether or not fuel prices will go up. What I can say is that the fuel that is provided by the government through our POL division, is priced through a floating formula where it does follow world market prices, and it is a fact that world market prices for fuel has gone up. At some point in time government will have to decide

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whether or not to raise fuel prices.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 500-13(3): Raising the Price of Heating Fuel

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious matter, because it reflects on the cost of living for several of our smaller communities, the GNWT usually enters into long-term agreements to purchase fuel, so for example, most of the fuel in the smaller communities off-road would have been purchased in March or April and then delivered in September. So, they have already purchased that fuel, it is already in place. Maybe the Minister would explain, why would those fuel prices in off-road communities increase when it has been already purchased and paid for? Mr Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 500-13(3): Raising the Price of Heating Fuel

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I would say again that there have been no decisions to increase fuel prices and again I would say the price formula that our Petroleum Products Division uses is a floating formula which as I said, if the world oil prices increases, then the price of fuel has to increase also. So there has been no decision to increase fuel prices, if there was one it would affect all communities that we service.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, oral questions supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 500-13(3): Raising the Price of Heating Fuel

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister said that it would affect all communities that we service and therefore my question would be, to give us an idea or an indication of how it worked in the past. When was the last general price increase for the cost of fuel for the consumer in the Northwest Territories under the POL arrangement?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 500-13(3): Raising the Price of Heating Fuel

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I do not know the exact date of when it was, but I am informed by the Department that it has been since 1992 that we have raised fuel prices, and that is for the 45 or so communities that the POL services, and does not include the communities such as Yellowknife which is serviced by the private sector.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 500-13(3): Raising the Price of Heating Fuel

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the 45 communities that the Minister speaks about, in most cases, those 45 communities already have their fuel purchased and paid for, delivered and in the community. My question would be, then, after we have increased those prices, the revenue, the net revenue gained, the net profit from said saving of said fuel, where will that money go, will it go into helping Mr. Todd and the rest of the Government and us fight the deficit? Is it going to the consolidated revenue fund? Where will this revenue go? Will we kick it back, as a subsidy to our "in-need" people? Where will this money go? The extra revenue?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 500-13(3): Raising the Price of Heating Fuel

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, the petroleum products revolving fund is revenue neutral. That is, it operates on a break even basis. At this point of time, it is in a deficit situation and the deficit this year will be over \$1 million. If I can recall correctly the cumulative debt is over \$3 million, so we do need to take care of that problem. If we raise fuel prices, I would say, is a possibility which FMB will have to think about seriously, the money would go toward the cost of fuel.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral question, Mr. Barnabas.

Question 501-13(3): Emergency Aid to Grise Fiord

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader, because the Minister of Transportation is not here, I will direct my question to the Government Leader, regarding Grise Fiord. Will our government be subsidizing the Co-op, because they will be sending food and material over by plane instead of ship? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for Public Works and Services. The Premier.

Return To Question 501-13(3): Emergency Aid to Grise Fiord

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I talked to my Ministers responsible for Transportation, Public Works and Services, as well as the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community affairs and they will be meeting fairly shortly to discuss this issue. They will be pleased also to talk to the MLA for Grise Fiord on this whole issue. We should be able to have some answers very shortly on whether or not there is any type of subsidy available. The last I have seen on this issue, Mr. Speaker, was that the barge or ship did not make it into Grise Fiord and we will have to consider

what is essential to allow that community to get through the winter. Those Ministers will be meeting fairly shortly to discuss that whole issue. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, just to remind the Members again that if a Minister or Member is not in the House, that they don't refer to him not being in the House. Oral question, you have supplementary, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Barnabas, no. Oral questions, Mr. Roland

Question 502-13(3): Residency Requirements for Social Housing

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question would be directed to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. I would like to know from the Minister if there is any residency requirement to get into the housing, the local housing units. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 502-13(3): Residency Requirements for Social Housing

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, there are residency requirements for people that want to get into social housing, I cannot recall right now what they are, but in some communities housing associations require anywhere from six months to a year depending on what the housing association has decided.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 502-13(3): Residency Requirements for Social Housing

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Would this residency requirement be for someone moving into the territories or from community to community? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 502-13(3): Residency Requirements for Social Housing

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, the one that I was talking about is a requirement for people that are moving from one community to another. That is, in some communities you have to wait six months and up to a year in some places before you will be considered to be put on the waiting list for social housing.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral question supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 502-13(3): Residency Requirements for Social Housing

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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Following up on that, is there a requirement, residency requirement for people moving in from out of the Territories? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 502-13(3): Residency Requirements for Social Housing

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, the information that I have is for social housing, the waiting period for a non-resident or new resident to the Territories is a year, and to be considered for home ownership programs you have to be a NWT resident for five years.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Oral questions Mr. Ootes.

Question 503-13(3): Southern Communication Strategy

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. I understand that the government has been

working on or was at one time, considering a southern communication strategy, and I wonder if the Premier could elaborate on that.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 503-13(3): Southern Communication Strategy

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. That is correct, we are looking at a communications strategy for the north as well as a communications strategy to make sure that people in southern Canada know what is happening in the Northwest Territories, what the north has to offer and such things. So we are developing that and I have committed to Members of Caucus that we will hopefully have that completed by the end of November. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral question supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 503-13(3): Southern Communication Strategy

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Premier could tell us who he is considering to develop this communication strategy. Is it an outside firm, a private firm in other words, or is this being done within government?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 503-13(3): Southern Communication Strategy

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. As the member is aware a communication strategy has many portions to it, and presently the responsibility for developing a communication strategy lies with Press Secretary, Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral question, Mr. Ootes, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 503-13(3): Southern Communication Strategy

**MR. OOTES:**

Yes, thank you. Could the minister confirm or deny whether a private firm will be involved in this?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 503-13(3): Southern Communication Strategy

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Once I see the communication strategy and what all is entailed in that, then I would be able to either confirm or deny that question. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 504-13(3): Update on Funding for Status of Women's Council

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. Will the minister provide this House with an update of the total reductions to funding for the NWT Status of Women's Council? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, Ms. Thompson.

Return To Question 504-13(3): Update on Funding for Status of Women's Council

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**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I do not have those details with me. I will take that question as notice. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The question is taken as notice. Oral question, Mr. Erasmus.

Question 505-13(3): Contributions of Business Development Fund

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development. In relation to his statement on the Business Development Fund, I am pleased to see, Mr. Speaker, that we are still committed to assisting the private sector and to helping business enterprise grow and prosper during these difficult times. However, we all know that we do not have a bottomless pit of money and I feel that the output of our money should be related to job creation. I would like to know how many of these contributions are going to require ongoing funding?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 505-13(3): Contributions of Business Development Fund

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I would have to take that question as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The question is taken as notice. Oral question, Mr. Krutko.

Question 506-13(3): Equipment Lost in School Fire

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. It is in relation to the fire that the destroyed the Chief Julius School in Fort McPherson. And also there was a lot of recreational equipment that was lost to that fire in regards to the cross-country skiis, the equipment for broomball, hockey equipment, items such as that. Are those items covered under insurance?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 506-13(3): Equipment Lost in School Fire

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will take that question as notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 507-13(3): Business Development Fund Job Creation

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development, and it is in relation to a statement on the Business Development Fund Annual Report. It indicated that there was 246 contributions during the '95-'96 fiscal year. Does he have any indication how many jobs were created by the 246 contributions?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Report, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 507-13(3): Business Development Fund Job Creation

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, that is an answer that requires detail that I could not even possibly try to answer so, I would have to take it as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Just to remind the Ordinary Members that you do have written question in the order papers if Members require detailed information, those are the times when you have the opportunity to get those details. Because I do not think the Minister will have the information that you need and it requires time to get it so I would like to ask the Ministers that, or the Members, if you have detailed information that you wish to get that you do it in the form of a written question so that the Ministers can have the time to get that information.

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Oral questions. Oral questions, Mr. Roland.

Question 508-13(3): GNWT/NorthwesTel Service Agreement

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question would be directed to the Minister of Public Works and Services. To do with the information of NorthwesTel and this government. I would like to know if the Minister has any information that this government has an agreement with NorthwesTel for service. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 508-13(3): GNWT/NorthwesTel Service Agreement

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I would not be able to say whether or not we have an agreement, I could find that out. What I can say is that the government of the Northwest Territories is probably the largest single customer for that company.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral question supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 508-13(3): GNWT/NorthwesTel Service Agreement

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I was not too sure, did the Minister say he would find out that information and get it back to me? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 508-13(3): GNWT/NorthwesTel Service Agreement

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time I have been asked by MLAs for such information and we are in fact putting an information package together for the MLA from Hay River so once that information comes forward, we will pass the same on to the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions, oral questions, Mr. Henry.

Question 509-13(3): Guidelines for Capital Project Management

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. We have, over the past couple of weeks noticed and discussed the changes which took place in the capital budget. We have noticed that amounts originally in the capital budget have in many cases been revised and again, in many cases, increased. Some up to as much as 40%.

I realize that some of these projects come in higher than what is anticipated, coming from the private sector, this practice is not the case. If a project comes in over budget, you look at the size of the project, look at downsizing it, you look at the scope of the work. Can it be increased or decreased to bring it in closer to the budget?

What my question to the Premier is, is there any guidelines for the bureaucracy to take these projects that come in drastically over what was estimated, to work them down to something that is previously budgeted to if it means decreasing the size of the project? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 509-13(3): Guidelines for Capital Project Management

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. It is pretty tough to respond to a question of, I guess, general application on all capital projects. As Mr. Henry would know that every project is a unique project in its own, and we do have projects in place to bring projects in on budget. The majority of capital projects are brought in on budget, or below budget. But there is a process in place that in some cases, things change from the time that the dollars are passed in this Assembly to the time of actual building of the capital project, and it may mean that there is an extra classroom added on because the numbers justify to do it, or whatever project it is. So those things happen, but everything is defensible. We are accountable to Members of this Assembly and we are accountable to public accounts. I believe it is.

So the Ministers that are in charge of those projects will be accountable to Members of this Assembly, so everything should be justifiable. If there is a specific project he is concerned with I would be pleased to look into that project more. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 510-13(3): New Revenue/Expenditure Initiatives

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance, in regards to finding new initiatives and new ways of saving revenues for this Government through new initiatives and new ways of spending, purchasing, things like that. I would like to know from the Minister if he has sent out a Call letter to the Departments, especially in relation to travel, especially in the South, and also means of trying to find excursions on air tickets, staying at, instead of high-class hotels like, say Caesar's Palace, but I am not too sure if anybody went to Vegas lately. Basically, are you looking at the price differences between the higher-ranking hotel chains versus the smaller, and trying to find savings there, and also looking at excursion tickets for people who do travel on behalf of Government business?

Has the Minister put a Call letter out to the Departments to make them aware we are dealing with a deficit, and also that they have to practice what we are preaching in this House?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 510-13(3): New Revenue/Expenditure Initiatives

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to assure my Honourable colleague that we in fact have spoken to all Departments, and not just this last time, this last twelve months, but under the previous Government. There is an understanding that, where possible, that all Departments make every effort to get the most cost-effective air transportation for any travel they make South, or for that matter, North. I believe on a number of occasions where there have been large

groups going to meetings say, in Rankin Inlet, which is my home town, that there has in fact been bulk purchasing, if you want, of tickets that have saved us money.

So I think there is clearly an understanding in the system right now that we are in a time of not just fiscal restraint, we are responsible for spending our money, and spending it wisely, and we should be treated no differently than anybody else. I think, in short answer to my colleague, yes, we make every effort to provide cost-effective transportation routes and yes, we do try to, in most cases, utilize accommodation facilities where Government rates are available, and I think, I hope anyway, and if anybody knows otherwise let me know, I think the days of the Four Seasons are, frankly, over. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral question. Supplementary. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 510-13(3): New Revenue/Expenditure Initiatives

**MR. KRUTKO:**

In regards to the whole question of yes, you have sent out a letter, I would like to know if the Minister would like to send out another letter just to ensure that the last letter got to where it was going and people understand this is the practice of this Government?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 510-13(3): New Revenue/Expenditure Initiatives

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Both the Premier and myself meet with the Deputies on a regular basis, and I will be enforcing it the next time I am with the Deputies, and I want to assure my Honourable colleague that, there may be isolated cases out there that I do not know, but in general, there is an acceptance by the senior management team all the way down the line that we have to look at more cost-effective ways of doing business. And

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transportation, of course, accommodations, is a significant cost to this Government. So it is fully



recognized, but I will reinforce it in my next meeting with the Deputies. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral question. Supplementary. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 510-13(3): New Revenue/Expenditure Initiatives

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is in regards to the savings to this Government. As you mentioned, it is a high cost to this Government, and have we seen savings in regards to the last year in this particular area, when it comes to travelling and accommodations to this Government. Also, if there are any revenues that have seen savings, that it goes back into the revolving fund to bring down the debt.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 510-13(3): New Revenue/Expenditure Initiatives

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Speaker, as part of the overall running of Government, that has been a significant initiative. There has been a considerable amount of discussion on that, whether it is on health care, travel, transportation costs, or just the regular doing of business. I can not tell the Member today quantifiably what the savings have been, but I feel reasonably confident that there have been significant savings from the fact that this Government has taken a new approach, and has made it clear to our management team and to ourselves, to act in a responsible way when organizing our transportation. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral question. Mr. Ootes.

Question 511-13(3): Negotiations of Bulk Rates With Commercial Carriers

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to follow up on the questions raised by Mr. Krutko, I wonder if the Minister could tell us if consideration has been given to doing somewhat the same as what a Corporation

would do. That is, assess the number of tickets it would buy in a year from specific airlines, and assess the amount of freight that would be carried by those airlines, and trucking companies, and shipping companies. Has the Government considered looking at negotiating with those particular corporations a bulk rate, similar to what one would do with a trucking company, for example, of a bulk rate from Edmonton to Yellowknife?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 511-13(3): Negotiation of Bulk Rates with Commercial Carriers

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me answer it this way. We recognize that, right across the framework, and particularly here in Yellowknife, we have some travel agencies and other companies that depend, to some extent, on Government business. There is some concern out there right now, because I believe the airline companies, for example, have capped the commissions that are provided to the travel agencies. We have been, through my Department, speaking to most of the travel agencies here in Yellowknife about that concern. They employ, they contribute, taxes, employment, etc. So we are concerned about that, we are trying to address that issue, as well as a means in which to get more cost-effective transportation into the Territories. There was, in the previous Government -- I think it went on forever -- a study that took a year or two years to determine what we should do, and in the end, we believed, if my memory serves me correctly, that the marketplace will correct the imbalances that are perceived out there, and that competition will bring about more cost-effective transportation. I believe that has been demonstrated, particularly the last six, seven months. If you look at where there is jet service, at least significant discounts now being offered that were never offered before in the past. Mr. Speaker, that is the way I would answer that question. There is an

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understanding that we need to find more cost-effective ways to do business. Management does look at that. We must bear in mind that there are others who utilize those services that also do business with us, and they have to survive. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral question. Supplementary. Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 511-13(3): Negotiation of Bulk Rates with Commercial Carriers

**MR. OOTES:**

I am familiar with what Mr. Todd, the Minister, is stating, about the travel agencies. But since the travel agencies are being cut by the airlines on the airlines' part, and there will be a flat ticket price, we will still need to be ticketed for our employees, so there is no difference on that end. What I am speaking about is beyond that, that can we negotiate a rate with the airlines for the tickets and our freight, and not cut out the travel agencies. That was not my intent.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 511-13(3): Negotiation of Bulk Rates with Commercial Carriers

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Again, Mr. Speaker, I believe we did that in the previous Government. It, to put it bluntly, was an abysmal failure. I think that what we are saying is, we believe that the marketplace, to some extent, does provide some competitiveness. We have instructed our management team, if you want, that they should be aggressive in trying to seek excursion airfares when they are doing trips both North and South. I believe it is working reasonably well at this time, and it is true that we are trying to find a way to ensure the travel agencies can survive. But we have also got to ensure that airlines survive as well. So it is a fine balancing act that we are trying to walk right now. It has been further compounded now, and the only reason I brought the travel agencies up, has been further compounded with this capping of the commissions by the airlines on the travel agencies. I do not know how many people they employ in this town, but it must be significant, and in other communities. The issue of travel and travel costs has been further compounded with the capping, if you want, of the commissions, so we are walking a fine line right now to try to see how we can accommodate the airline business, to ensure that we save fiscally, a fiscal responsibility to the public, and at the same time, try to find a way for these travel agencies, etc. who are in the travel business to survive. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral question. Supplementary. Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 511-13(3): Negotiation of Bulk Rates with Commercial Carriers

**MR. OOTES:**

I wonder if it is possible for the Minister to provide us, obviously not today, but if he could provide us down the road with the figures of the amount of travel that the Government does and the amount of freight services it does, perhaps broken by airline, not specific airlines, but by airlines and road transport. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 511-13(3): Negotiation of Bulk Rates with Commercial Carriers

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

What I would commit to do is to give the Member a round figure at this time of what we think our overall travel costs and our freight costs are. To break that down to that level of micro management would cost a significant amount of money. I guess, in fairness to my colleague, I would be prepared to provide him with a round number of what we think the overall costs are. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 512-13(3): Naming of the New Chair of Workers' Compensation Board

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

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

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Compensation Board. Can the Minister indicate to this House as to whether or not a new Chairman has been selected for the WCB?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, two questions.

Return To Question 512-13(3): Naming of the New Chair of WCB

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, no Chairperson has been approved by the Cabinet or this Minister at this time. I believe the appointment and the approval is imminent, and there could be an announcement made in the next three or four days. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral question. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 513-13(3): Differential Pricing For Public and Government

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. We have all heard stories of there being two rates for two sets of prices I guess, or rates, whatever you want to call them, for things that the Government has to purchase.

It seems like there is one going rate for the public and another going rate for Government. We do not seem to be getting the good rate. There is a higher rate, it seems like, for Government, than for the rest of the public. I have spoken to one person who indicated that he worked for a company where the first question they ask, is, is this Government or for yourself? If it is for the Government, they pull out a higher rate.

I would like to know from the Minister of Finance what this Government is doing to get the same rates for the Government as for the public, or even a discount. Since we seem to have a high volume of business, we should probably even get a discount.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Finance. Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 513-13(3): Differential Pricing For Public and Government

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Honourable colleague is correct. In a number of areas, this Government does in fact pay more than the ordinary citizen in an effort to ensure that the cost to the citizens is reasonable. Fuel comes to mind, water, power, etc. and I believe in some cases, I am told by my colleagues to my

immediate left, even in newspaper ads. I would have to look at this issue, and see if it requires re-examination and get back to my Honourable colleague with it later next week. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Replies to Opening Address. Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Enuaraq.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has reviewed Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Public Trustee Act, and wishes to report that Bill 18 is now ready for Committee of the Whole, and requests unanimous consent to waive rule 70(5) to have Bill 18 ordered into Committee of the Whole for today.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The Member for Baffin-Central is seeking unanimous consent to waiver rule 70(5). Do we have any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Enuaraq. You have unanimous consent.

Reports of committees on the review of bills. Tabling of documents. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, Tabled Document 106-13(3), "Partners in a New Beginning" the Draft Constitution Package recommended by the Constitutional Working Group

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of the Western Caucus of the Legislative Assembly and the Aboriginal Summit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish table a letter, Tabled Document 107-13(3) I received from the Baffin Regional Health Board regarding the need for a financial commitment from the Government of the Northwest Territories for a new health facility in Iqaluit. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a letter I received, Tabled Document 108-13(3), from the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce, expressing their concerns regarding funding for the Inuvik and Baffin Regional hospitals.

---Applause.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Documents. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, Tabled Document 109-13(3), the 1995/96 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, Tabled Document 110-13(3). This is the Annual Report of the Business Development Fund, for April 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, Tabled Document 111-13(3). The front page of the Yellowknifer, October 16, 1996, and its headline "Apartheid or Democracy" and the subsequent article denoting Mayor Lovell's drivel. Thank you.

---Applause.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a response, Tabled Document 112-13(3), to Petitions 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, and 67. These petitions were presented by Mr. Henry, Mrs. Groenewegen, and Mr. Ootes, and are responded to by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Notices of motion. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Motions. Second reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Aivilik, that Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to provide that the term of an information and privacy commission appointed before March 31, 1999, expires on March 31, 1999. The bill repeals the provision that deems employees of the office of the Information and Privacy Commission to be members of the public service, and also repeals a provision requiring that the directory produced under the Act, contain a general description of the various categories of records controlled by public bodies. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the principle of the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 21 has had second reading. Second reading of bills, Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 69(2) and have Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, ordered into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 69(2), and have Bill 21 moved

into Committee of the Whole. Do we have any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Ng. You have unanimous consent. And accordingly, Bill 21 will be moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Tabled Document 1-13(3), 83-13(3), 90-13(3), 91-13(3), and Ministers' Statement 82-13(3), Bills 20, 18, and 21, 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. Items for consideration in Committee of the Whole today, Bill 20, Supplementary Appropriation Act, Bill 21, Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Bill 18, Public Trustees Act, Ministers' Statement 82-13(3), Premier's Sessional Speech, Tabled Document 90-13(3) Community Empowerment, Tabled Document 91-13(3), Community Empowerment and New Partnerships. What is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman. We agree with the order that you have presented. We will start with Bill 20, Supplementary Appropriation Act, if I may make that recommendation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Does the Committee agree with this?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Then we will proceed with Supplementary Appropriation Act, Bill 20. Does the Committee agree, we will take a fifteen minute break?

---Agreed.

--- SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Appropriation Act and I would like to invite Minister Mr. Todd, Minister of Finance, to introduce the bill, please.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Supplementary Appropriation Act #1, requests authority for additional appropriations of \$5,072,223 made up of \$511,133 from operation and maintenance and \$4,561,090 from capital expenditures. The additional appropriations will not impact on the forecasted deficit for 96/97 approximately \$2,000,000 is offset by, either additional revenues to be recorded in 1997 or funding transfers.

The balance of the appropriations include capital carry-overs and other minor items provided for in the estimated supplementary requirements in the 96/97 main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. I would like now, to invite the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, Mr. Erasmus, for Committee comments.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Government Operations has reviewed bill 20 Supplementary Appropriation #1 1996/97. The committee is pleased to note that this supplementary appropriation is for a relatively small amount. The majority of the items are either transfers from departments as a result of government initiatives, such as user say/user pay, or payments which will be cost recovered from other sources, such as the federal government.

It would appear from the supplementary appropriation that departments are not budgeting for supplementary appropriations as has happened in the past, but are making sincere efforts to live within the amounts allocated during the budget process. During the review of the Bill with the Minister of Finance, Members did have questions about the process for leasing space and tenant improvements for that space. This was tied in to a concern about negotiated contracts. Members of the Committee want to ensure that any expenditures for leases or tenant improvements are done in a cost-effective way and that, where tenant improvements are necessary they are specific to the actual space being leased.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee

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hopes that future supplementary appropriations will also be small and reflect the efforts of the agencies and departments to live within their budgets. Standing Committee on Government Operations has no recommendations regarding Bill 20. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. I would now like to ask the Minister, would you like to bring in witnesses?

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, yes, indeed I would.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Does everybody agree with the Minister bringing in witnesses?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

You may bring in your witness. Could I have Mr. Todd introduce the witness, please?

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate right is Miss Debbie Delancy who is Mr. Voytilla's right-hand lady.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Todd and welcome to the Committee. I now open the floor to general comments on the Bill by Members. Are there any general comments on the Bill by Members. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

I have a question, Mr. Chairman, but not general comments on this Bill.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

I believe we could entertain questions as well, Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The item I wish to question the Minister about is with regard to the NWT Development Corporation and the fire at the Pangnirtung print shop, which, I understand, took place about one year ago, or a year and a half ago, and in the process of this the Government, apparently, paid the insurance policy of some \$250,000. The Government, is pardon, me, I will correct that, I believe the Government has paid \$250,000 towards the rebuilding which is collectable back from the insurance company.

My question to the Minister is, why did this Government handle this payment instead of the Development Corporation?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Could I ask Members to hold their questions to specific items until we have reached that in the review? Is that agreed? So, if Members have questions in general comment form we would be open to those at this time. Are there any general comments? If not, and the Members agree, we will then move on, clause by clause on the Bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

I would like to point out to Members that this is the Supplementary Appropriation document that accompanies the Bill. We will start on page 5 of the document. Are we prepared? On top of page 5 - Legislative Assembly Operations and Maintenance. Office of the Clerk, not previously authorized \$3,500.

Total department \$3,500. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

On page 6, Executive Operations and Maintenance, not previously authorized, Executive Council Secretariat \$1,623,600 negative. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 7, Operations and Maintenance, not previously authorized, Financial Management Board Secretariat Directorate \$26,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Human Resource Management \$53,900 negative. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 8, not previously authorized, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, \$3,900.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department \$1,647,600 negative.

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**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 9, NWT Housing Corporation, Operations and Maintenance, not previously authorized, NWT Housing Corporation \$63,400.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department \$63,400.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Finance, on page 10, Finance Operations and Maintenance, not previously authorized Directorate \$7,700.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department \$7,700.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 11, Justice, Operation and Maintenance, not previously authorized, Directorate \$90,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Community Justice and Corrections \$150,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department \$240,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Safety and Public Services, Operations and Maintenance, not previously authorized, Directorate \$18,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

That is on page 12. Public Safety \$779,000 negative.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Consumer Services \$434,000 negative.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department \$1,195,000 negative.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 13, Public Works and Services, Operations and Maintenance, Directorate \$105,600.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Asset Management \$420,000 negative.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 14, not previously authorized, total department \$314,400 negative.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 15, Transportation, Operations and Maintenance, not previously authorized, Corporate Services \$87,337.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Highways, \$450 negative.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Airports, \$1,115 negative.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Motor Vehicles \$272 negative.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department \$85,500. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 16, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Renewable Resources, Operations and Maintenance not previously authorized Directorate \$94,500.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Conservation, Education and Resource Development \$213,333.

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**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department \$307,833.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**



Page 17, Municipal and Community Affairs, Operations and Maintenance not previously authorized, Directorate \$553,500.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Community Development \$1,662,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 18, not previously authorized, total department, \$2,215,500.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 19

Health and Social Services

Operations and Maintenance, not previously authorized, Community Programs and Services, negative \$385,800.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Support and Health Services Administration, \$525,100.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department, \$139,300.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 20

Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources, Operations and Maintenance, not previously authorized, \$215,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department, \$215,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 21

Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and Tourism, Operations and Maintenance, not previously authorized, Policy, Planning and Human Resources, \$169,400.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Finance and Administration, \$23,900.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department, \$193,300. We are at Page 22. Education, Culture and Employment

Operations and Maintenance, not previously authorized, Directorate and Administration, \$56,200.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Culture and Careers, Special Warrant, \$561,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Not previously authorized, negative \$372,800.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Education Development, negative \$473,300.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department, Special Warrant, \$561,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Not previously authorized, negative \$363,900.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 23,

NWT Housing Corporation Capital, not previously authorized, NWT Housing Corporation, \$141,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department, \$141,000. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Can you, Minister, tell us where this unit was purchased back from, which community?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Todd.

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**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. This was to provide funding to the NWT Housing Corporation, to buy back a staff house in Yellowknife, due to unique conditions associated with the family that were involved in a house purchase. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Total department, \$141,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 24,

Justice Capital, not previously authorized, Community Justice and Corrections, negative \$110,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department, negative \$110,000.

Page 25, Public Works and Services

Capital, Special Warrant, Project Management, \$73,000. Mr. Picco. Does anyone have a question on Project Management? Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Management in regards to ministerial furnishings, \$52,000. Can you tell us what that was? Who was it for?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Krutko. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes thank you Mr. Chairman. The ministerial furnishing was for the purchase up to \$25,000, or \$26,000 of purchases for Ministers in accordance with the policies that are in place with respect to Ministers residing in Yellowknife.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Todd. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Clarification, did you say, Minister residing, I did not catch the end of that, so could you explain that, or clarify that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Krutko. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Under the guidelines, Ministers who are asked to reside in Yellowknife, under the current guidelines we have, the Government of the Northwest Territories will purchase household furnishings which are then rented back to the individual Ministers. That is what this expenditure is for. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Todd. Project Management, \$73,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Asset Management, Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under Asset Management, there are several different areas of office renovations in various parts of the Northwest Territories. I would like to question the Minister on the accommodation services, the renovations and the awarding of contracts for said work, if I may.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Picco. Go ahead with your question.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my question to the Minister is, on these office renovations, how many of these contracts were actually negotiated, and how many were tendered to carry out said renovations?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes, thank you. Is Mr. Picco referring to the renovations, lease-hold improvements to the office facilities? Is that what Mr. Picco is alluding to?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Todd. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was talking about the Special Warrant issued on June 15, 1996, which was approved to carry over funds from the 1995/96 fiscal year to the 1996/97 fiscal year, to complete capital projects worth \$1,485,000.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes. The office renovations were negotiated were the

Page 1200

Sweetgrass Centre in Fort Smith, the office building in Lutselk'e, the office building in Hay River Reserve.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Todd. Assets Management, Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the total of those projects I do not think would add up to \$1,485,000. Can the Minister give us an update on the status of the other contracts? The ones that the Minister spoke about, the Lutselk'e was \$39,000, \$14,000 for the other one, and \$40,000 for the Hay River Reserve. That does not come close to \$1,000,000. I would like to know the status of the other contracts for the \$1.485 million.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

They would be publicly tendered according to the notes I have here.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Todd. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Would it be safe to assume then, to the Minister, that some of these contracts have not been let?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Some of these contracts are probably under review right now. Some are let, and a variety of them are being tendered. I specifically responded to the negotiated ones, and there are one or two that still have not been let, so they are either out for tender, or decision pending. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Todd. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the concern here would be that in some cases, this government goes out to negotiate a lease, and then does office improvements or tenant improvements and upgrades a said building, we could spend two or three hundred thousand dollars on that, on a negotiated lease, and it could be seen as a form of political grafting, as it were. My concern here is that would be the perception. My question to the Minister is, is there any way that we could tighten up this said form of negotiated leases for tenant improvements.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Todd):**

Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I am only going to say it once. I said it to the Honourable Member in Committee, and I am going to say it now publicly. I resent the implication of his comments about graft. I want to ask him to take it back now before I respond to the question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Todd. It is pretty straight forward here that the Minister is requesting you withdraw the statement, if in fact you made a comment. If you have not made a comment, then maybe you should

rephrase your question, so that it does not have double meanings to it. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my word was exactly...I knew what I was saying. I did phrase it so that it would be politically correct. I said there could be a perception. The point of the matter here, is that this Government does have negotiated leases. Negotiated leases under the guidelines of this Government is that if it has the approval, for example of the community, if it has the approval of the MLA. What I am saying here, Mr. Chairman, is in this case, or any case, if it has the approval of me, I am the MLA in a community, and the community, we want to renovate a building, we lease it for one year for \$100,000, and spend \$300,000 on that building. It could be a friend of mine. It could be a company of one of my relatives. Who knows what is. Just because it has my permission, does not mean it makes it right. What I am trying to say here is, these guidelines need to be tightened up, so that the perception is not there. That is not an inaccurate statement. That is a fact. I am asking, is there anything that this Government is looking at, so that we can change these leases, so that the perception is not there in the community?

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Picco. Before I recognize Mr. Morin, I would like to point out, Mr. Picco, that there could be a perception of graft. That is the point the Minister made. As well, you are suggesting that it could be a perception of favouring of tenants, or contractors, so to speak. I think that you both have a point to some degree, in a situation where there could be a perception. I think the Minister's statement is in order Mr. Picco. You have to be careful how you word your question. There could be a perception of graft, as the rule book says, to imply false or hidden motives to another Member. I would caution Members on that. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. On a point of order. The Honourable Member from Iqaluit is misleading this House, and as well the public of the Northwest Territories with the previous comments he made. Basically saying that a community can negotiate a lease with the community commitment and an MLA's sanction, if it is a relative or a cousin or a personal

friend. I believe that he has the responsibility as a Member to state facts in this House, and truths. He knows that the government does not negotiate contracts on those type of conditions alone. We have fairly stringent guidelines that we follow for negotiated contracts. Mr. Chairman, I would like you to rule on that point of order, that the Member is misleading the public, as well as the Members of this House.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

It is my understanding Mr. Morin, that you do not have a point of order. Mr. Picco stated "could arise from these contracts." He did not state that they are arising, or that they would arise, could arise. On that I rule that you do not have a point of order. We are on Assets Management, and I think the question put to Mr. Todd. I will ask Mr. Picco again, could you please ask the question again to Mr. Todd.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. It does pay to read the rule book. My question again is, is the Government looking at tightening up the way that this Government does negotiated leases?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. A civilized question warrants a civilized answer. I want to assure the House that negotiated contracts, whether they be for leases, or lease renovations, are stringently reviewed by the FMB, or cabinet, and approved thereof. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Todd. Assets Management. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know that they are stringently looked at. My question was, are they going to review the regulations that are currently in place for negotiated leases, that was my question, and he just told me what they are doing now. I am asking, is the Government ... do I have to repeat the question again?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Mr. Picco, I guess the Government is not going to review again, that is his answer. Do you have any further questions?

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I guess my question would be then, why not?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I do not even know what the question is. He has made the rhetorical statement, unsubstantiated, I spoke about it earlier. There is no requirement at this time, the rules are clear. Unless there is a requirement that the Committee chairs, and there is a collective vote for requirement, we are on the singular need to pontificate, then I am prepared to re-examine it. But unless somebody can bring forward significant evidence to prove that the system we have in place is inadequate, why would I go re-examine a policy that

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is in place, and it is sound.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Todd. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

That is a matter of opinion. The Minister stated an opinion that it is sound. In my opinion it is not. So I guess I will beg to differ with the Minister, and I will give someone else a shot at this line of questioning.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Picco. I believe the Minister answered the Member's question. Mr. Krutko, you had your hand up on Assets Management.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Just a clarification on ministerial furnishings. Is that from the previous government, does this carry into this government?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Krutko. Is what from the previous government? The policy?

**MR. KRUTKO:**

The carry-over from 1995/96 or is this current in this fiscal year, 96/97?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Krutko. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes. I believe it is the current government, 95/96.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Todd. Assets Management, Special Warrants, \$1,603,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Not previously authorized, \$891,000. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister explain the list that we have here, under Special Warrants, the last one in particular, sale of the old northern health property in Yellowknife? Should that not be displayed differently? That is revenue that is being generated, whereas the other ones are expenditures. What am I missing? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Henry. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is what we call an FMB grant-in-kind to recognize the sale of the old northern health property to the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre. This was a system that we brought into place in this last year.

In the past, let us say we had a write-off of a building, or a facility that had a value, like this one does, \$225,000. We may have given that building to the Tree of Peace for nothing, but we would not recognize in the books, if you want, the balance sheet, the cost. This is now what we are doing, we are recognizing the cost associated with the value of the asset, so that the transfer to whatever organization is transparent to the public, and the cost associated with it is transparent.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Todd. Assets Management. Not previously authorized, \$891,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 26, Public Works, Capital, Special Warrant, Petroleum Products, \$944,000. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Just a question in regards to the tank farms. This Government is presently in the process of privatizing POL, in regards to the fuel section, and also the assets, in order to build a new infrastructure and assets for the private sector. Does that make sense in regards to the economic circumstances we are under? Are we looking at privatizing and building these things, and then turning around and selling them to the general public at the prices that are listed?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Krutko. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes thank you Mr. Chairman. I think it is important to point out that while privatization is an initiative of the government, no decision at this time has been made by the cabinet or FMB, or for that matter, this House, to privatize POL. But the Member is correct, that we

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are moving forward on developing a paper for that. These tank farms and fuel tank systems were underway in 95/96, and should, depending on how the paper comes forward, should the government

move towards the full-scale privatization of POL, they would be, I would imagine, because we have not got the paper yet, but I would imagine they would be sold off to the appropriate proponent. But I cannot speak to that at this time, because it is a little premature, because has not come forward on the privatization of POL. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Todd. Petroleum Products, Special Warrant, \$944,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department, Special Warrants, \$2,620,000. Not previously authorized, \$891,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Transportation

Capital, Airports, Special Warrants, \$65,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Not previously authorized, negative \$337,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department, Special Warrants, \$65,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Not previously authorized, negative \$337,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 28, Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development, Renewable Resources, Capital, Wildlife Management, not previously authorized, \$1,000.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Environmental Protection, not previously authorized, negative \$1,000.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Field Operations, negative \$288,000.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Forest Fire Management, negative \$3,000.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department, negative \$293,000. Municipal and Community Affairs

Capital, Community Development, Special Warrant, \$130,000.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Not previously authorized, negative \$359,000.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Sports and Recreation, Special Warrant, \$64,000.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department, Special Warrants, \$194,000. Not previously authorized, negative \$359,000. Page 30,

Health and Social Services

Capital, Community Programs and Services, Special Warrants, \$157,000.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Not previously authorized, \$271,000.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department, Special Warrants, \$157,000.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Not previously authorized, \$271,000.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 31, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Economic Development and Tourism, Capital, Parks and Visitor Services, not

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previously authorized, negative \$35,000.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Corporate and Technical Services, \$251,090. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I note that the fire destroyed the Pangnirtung print shop in March 29, 1994. My question for the Minister is why this was not budgeted for in the NWT Development Corporation, instead of the Government paying for it at this point?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ootes. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes thank you Mr. Chairman. This building was covered under, not all of it, but most of it was covered under the insurance policy of the GNWT.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

I do not think that was the question, Mr. Todd. I will ask Mr. Ootes to ask it again.

**MR. OOTES:**

Well, I would just like a clarification on that. Is the GNWT insuring all the assets of the Development Corporation then?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ootes. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I see here Mr. Chairman, that the Department of Finance had advised that \$251,090 is expected to be recovered from the insurance underwriters. I would have to assume that this building was covered under the GNWT insurance policy, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Todd. Mr. Ootes

**MR. OOTES:**

My concern Mr. Chairman is that the Development Corporation is really to be treated like a Crown corporation, and therefore it takes care of all its own insurance, and policies and so forth. Is this not correct?



**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ootes. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

In this case, it does not appear to be. The \$251,090 that my Honourable colleague is concerned about, is recovered under the insurance policies. There is a nil effect at the end of the day to the GNWT.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Todd. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Yes, I appreciate that it did not cost this Government any money, with this particular payment out and recovery. What I am concerned about is, is the GNWT paying for the insurance costs of various facilities of the Development Corporation?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ootes. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I would have to check into that with the Minister, Mr. Chairman. I do not have an answer on that one at this time. It would appear in this case, that we are claiming under our insurance, so this building must have been covered under our insurance, to the tune of \$251,090, and that the overall impact to this government is nil, because that will be recovered. I will check into whether in fact, the GNWT covers all buildings for the NWT Development Corporation. It is not a Crown corporation, it is a development corporation, the economic arm, of the new RWED department, which is funded through the GNWT on an annual basis. So I will check for my colleague, whether in fact the assets owned by the NWT Development Corporation are covered under our existing insurance policy or not, and if they are, whether the Development Corporation pays its associated costs of that insurance. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Todd. Corporate and Technical Services, \$251,090.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department, not previously authorized, \$216,090.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

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Education, Culture and Employment

Capital, Culture and Careers, Special Warrants, \$1,431,000.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Not previously authorized, negative \$326,000.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total department, Special Warrants, \$1,431,000. Not previously authorized, negative \$326,000.

Now, if Members agree, we will move to the Bill itself.

Bill 20, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 1, 1996/97

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 1, Clause 1.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Clause 2.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Clause 3.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Clause 4.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Clause 5.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 2,

Clause 6.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Clause 7.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 3, schedule, part I, vote 1, operations and maintenance.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total operations and maintenance, \$511,133.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Part II, vote 2, capital, total capital, \$4,561,090.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total supplementary appropriations in parts I and II, \$5,072,223.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

The bill as a whole.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Does the committee agree that Bill 20, is ready for third reading?

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Bill 20 is now ready for third reading. Thank you Mr. Todd, and the witness for attending.

If the Committee agrees, we now move on to Bill 21, Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

I would like to ask Mr. Ng, the Minister of Justice, to introduce the bill.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on October 10, 1996, the committee of the whole considered Tabled Document 89-13(3), the Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Access to Information and the Protection of Privacy.

The Committee passed a number of resolutions recommending certain amendments to the legislation. The first of these concerned the appointment of a contract Information and Privacy Commissioner, with a term to end by March 31, 1999. This would take into account division of the Territories, and allow for the appointment of a Commissioner under contract,

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similar to what is done in Saskatchewan. This would necessitate an amendment to change the term of the first appointee from five years to a term which would expire no later than March 31, 1999.

An amendment is also required to remove the provision in the act which states that the employees of the Information and Privacy Commissioner are public servants. The second recommendation of the working group and the committee of the whole was to remove the requirement to include in the directory, a general description of the categories of records and the custody or under the control of each public body. Members felt that developing and maintaining a directory of files is a very costly and time-consuming process. It would lead to the creation of a system of records which would become largely obsolete in less than three years, owing to division. Other jurisdictions have determined that the directory is not used very extensively by the public. However, a directory will be produced which contains the list of all public bodies and the name and address of the contact person for each public body. This aspect of the directory should be useful to members of the public and it can be produced at a limited cost.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my appreciation for the carefully considered work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Access to Information and the Protection of Privacy, which is reflected in this bill.

I will be happy to answer any questions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ng. As the bill was referred directly to the committee of the whole, there is no report from a standing committee. Therefore, I will ask the

committee, does the committee agree that the Minister bring in witnesses?

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Would you like to bring in witnesses?

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Not necessarily, Mr. Chairman, unless there are detailed questions. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Okay, I would then ask that we move into general comments on the bill. Are there general comments from Members on the bill? Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

I have a specific question Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Go ahead, Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Will there be regulations with this bill, pertaining to description of the position of the Commissioner?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I do not know if there will be regulations. Certainly there will be guidelines under which the Commissioner would operate, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

I wonder if the Minister could give me assurance that the guidelines will not attribute that the Commissioner be of a certain occupation, that it be left wide open. Because, other occupations may have those attributes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you Mr. Ng. Yes, Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that it would be up to the individual based on his qualifications, not necessarily any occupation that the individual may hold. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. The other question I have is, will the Minister consider...I am going a little beyond the Bill here, Mr. Chairman. I will pose the question anyway. Will the Minister consider employing the Commissioner prior to April 1, 1996, for the

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reason that staff will have to be trained, and the Commissioner should participate in this?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it can be taken into consideration.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ng. General comments, questions on the Bill? If there are no further comments or questions, does the Committee agree we move clause by clause on the Bill.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Page 1, clause 1.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Clause 2.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Clause 3.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Clause 4.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

The Bill as a whole.

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Does the committee agree that Bill 21 is ready for third reading? Bill 21 is now ready for third reading, and I thank the Minister.

Does the committee agree, we will move on to Bill 18, Public Trustees Act?

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

I will invite the Minister of Justice, Mr. Ng if he would introduce the bill.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present a bill to amend the Public Trustees Act, to eliminate the Special Reserve Fund held by the Public Trustee.

A Special Reserve Fund was established in Legislation to cover any shortfalls when the amount of interest owing to individual estates and trusts was

greater than the amount of interest earned by the common fund. The Special Reserve Fund has grown substantially over the years, and has a current value of \$577,895.40. The method of calculating the interest payable to the estates and trusts has not been tailored to the amount of interest earned by the common fund. The interest rate is set each month. As a result, the special reserve fund is no longer necessary. The full value of the special reserve fund will be transferred to the consolidated revenue fund on October 31st. Any excess interest on the common fund, after the payment of any fees and deficiencies will now be paid directly to the consolidated revenue fund, twice a year. I believe the amendment is a positive change which will assist the Government in its efforts to deal with the current fiscal realities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. I will now ask the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, Mr. Enuaraq, and Committee comments on the Bill.

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Social Programs, reviewed Bill 18, an Act to Amend the Public Trustee Act. This Bill will eliminate the Special Reserve Fund and allow access interest earned by the investment of the Common Fund to be paid straight into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

In reviewing the legislative proposal earlier this summer, Members had a number of questions about the past use of the Special Reserve Fund. These questions were addressed to the satisfaction of the Committee. The Standing Committee on Social Programs has no concerns with this Bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. I would like to ask the Minister if he wants to bring in witnesses at this time.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Not right at this time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

If the Committee agrees, we will move on to general comments on the Bill by Members. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Are there any general comments by Members? No general comments. Does the Committee agree that we move on to clause by clause in review of the Bill?

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Bill 18, an Act to Amend the Public Trustee Act. Page 1, clause 1. Agreed?

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Clause 2. Agreed?

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Clause 3. Agreed?

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Clause 4. Agreed?

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

The bill as a whole?

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Does the Committee agree that Bill 18, an Act to Amend the Public Trustee Act is ready for third reading?

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Bill 18 is now ready for third reading, and I thank the Minister.

We are now further on the agenda and I would like some guidance from the Committee. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would recommend that we go to Minister's Statement 82-13(3), Premier's Sessional Speech next, followed by Tabled Documents 90 and 91, Community Empowerment.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Does the Committee agree? Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

I would like to make a motion to report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All in favour. Those opposed. The motion is defeated.

We are on Minister's Statement 82-13(3), Premier's Sessional Speech. General comments or questions from Members on the sessional speech of the Premier. If there are no questions, does the Committee agree we have finished reviewing this item? Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

I move that we have conclude discussion of the Premier's Statement.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Mr. Ootes, it is not necessary to put a motion forward. It is agreement from the Committee that we are finished discussing the item. Does the Committee agree then that Minister's Statement 82-13(3) is concluded?

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Minister's Statement 82-13(3) is concluded. Shall we move on to community empowerment, Tabled Document 90-13(3)? Does the Committee agree?

**HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Do you want them both at once? We are now dealing with Tabled Document 90-13(3) and Tabled Document 91-13(3), Community Empowerment: A New Partnership. General comments from the Members. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I did not

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have an opportunity to speak on this yesterday. I wanted to speak from two different angles. Firstly, from the perspective of Health and Social Services as the Minister because of the fact that we are dealing with community empowerment initiatives. A lot of times, Health and Social Services' programs are the ones that are reluctantly looked at or the last to be looked at. There are serious concerns with looking at taking these on because of the fact they are a bit more complicated than your standard transfer of assets or of the programs that do not deal with individuals.

These Health and Social Services' programs deal with individuals and their daily lives. Very many times there is a lot of emotion involved in how these services are delivered at the community level and it impacts the constituents directly. A lot of this also has to do with some of the statutory requirements because of the fact that you are dealing with the safety of individuals and constituents in your communities.

But, having said that, we do have the Town of Iqaluit in the past, over 10 years now, has taken on the delivery of social services in their town council, recognizing the importance of it in their community.

We also have Cape Dorset that has taken on the social services' program since 1994 under the Community Transfer Initiative. Again, they recognize the importance of those programs. As I indicated in this House in the past, the Town of Hay River has taken a significant step in taking over the management of their hospital services there under a management agreement with our department, with the goal that by April 1 of next year, taking on the additional social services aspects and the public health aspects in their community and take on the whole social and health sphere of services in their community.

Since we announced our community empowerment initiatives, other municipalities throughout the Territories have not shied away from it even though Health and Social Services is, as I indicated before, a complicated and sometimes scary type of programs to be considering. We have Cambridge Bay looking at taking on social services. The Dogrib Treaty 11 group is looking at taking over the whole health and social services' programs within their area of communities, other communities which includes Fort Resolution, Fort Liard, Inuvik, Yellowknife and Norman Wells. All these communities are at different stages of discussions and negotiations in assuming health and social services' programs, Mr. Chairman.

Just in respect to my own constituency and my own experience with municipal government. Since 1979, I have been actively involved at different stages whether as mayor or as a councillor with the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay. Back when I first came North, we had regional headquarters out of Fort Smith to deal with. Then it moved to Yellowknife before we became a region, and even with that, all the decisions seemed to have had to have been made in Yellowknife. We are always waiting for decisions from the government in Yellowknife. Of course, we are looking forward to Iqaluit when that comes in 1999, but I think what that showed me and us as community leaders is the fact that we experienced a lot of concerns. We experienced a lot of frustrations with having to wait to get back answers and to wait on programs and changes that we wanted to carry out at the local level because we did not have the authority to do that. Always at the grass roots level, the desire was to take on more programs and have more of the decision-making.

I think the community empowerment initiative of this government supports that type of move towards that. Cambridge Bay right now I can tell you is negotiating for management of the local airport and the services

surrounding that; taking over Public Works and also taking over Social Services. The community of Kugluktuk, the other major community in my constituency, is negotiating to take over Housing and take over Public Works -- all of these with a time frame in mind of April 1, 1997. However, I would like to qualify that. They recognize, as we do as a

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government, that there are problems and stumbling blocks whether it be housing for some of the employees that they want to take on, whether it is training to develop their human resources to be able to manage and deliver these programs, whether it is having a contingency available in case there are unexpected problems such as outbreaks of circumstances beyond their control. Those are all things they recognize as problems, but overall they support, the concept and the thrust towards community empowerment. With that, I think we have to provide them the resources whether it is the physical assets, whether it is the financial support or the human resources and the support to allow them to enter into these initiatives to take on the programs because ultimately, the local community leaders know the community the best and they know the people that they are serving at the grassroots level. They should know.

Because of that knowledge, their decisions on identifying the priorities of where to spend their program dollars the best to serve their people. So with that, I think it is time to move on this. I know a lot of people think it might be too fast of a pace but the fact remains it has to be done and we should learn from some of the mistakes that may happen but ultimately we are heading in the right direction Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to say a few words as well. Very briefly, I would like to speak on community empowerment because we are starting to give these programs to the communities and I would like to thank everybody for supporting this. And also, even though the people that were not supportive, I would like to thank them for speaking on this as well because we do understand their concerns and from the concerns that were spoken on and we learned

from these concerns. So it is very important to us and what was talked about yesterday for example there were concerns that there might not be enough people that have enough training and these were some of the concerns that I heard yesterday.

And also, like people are concerned about the cut-backs as well and there are a lot of concerns about the schools. Like for example, if something went wrong with the furnace, who would fix it, stuff like that. Right from there we learned quite a bit and we know that there are a lot of people that are trained in the communities and there is a problem there but even though there are a lot of people that do not speak English but they are trained enough to work. Even though they did not go through the school system, they are able to work, for example on furnaces.

I would like to thank all the Members for supporting this, even the people that did not support this and I do understand the reasons. I believe in the future that we have to start going somewhere and I am positive that the communities are able to look after their own affairs and when we start moving, it has to start following. I am sure that the communities are able now.

Also I would like to say that in the regions our staff are prepared to train in the community empowerment. This is their knowledge and they are good at dealing with these kinds of issues. I believe that we are ready and prepared to start controlling our own affairs. We do have the staff and they will be training the people. I also wanted to say thank everybody very much. We are not just giving it to the communities but we are moving towards it. They have to be ready, they have to let us know that they are prepared and ready. They have to be willing and we will support them with our departments and we will be working together with the different departments when we do give the communities the empowerment. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Ms. Thompson. I would like to remind the Members to show respect to the other Members that are speaking by paying attention. I have Mr. Evaloarjuk.

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**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman and also I find it very interesting - am I able to speak on the issue? Mr. Chairman? Am I able to talk about the subject as well?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Go ahead Mr. Evaloarjuk.

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

Mr. Chairman. Yesterday I spoke on this issue and I am in support of the community empowerment.

Very briefly I just wanted to mention because I would like to let everybody know that I am in support of this. I have spoken to my riding about this and right now Igloolik and Pond Inlet are willing and waiting to start controlling their own affairs. I just wanted to mention that they are ready and I feel if Iqaluit is not going to be the same, we may have to wait a longer period. Also, I will be asking a question a little bit later on like if we are giving all the departments, many departments together - it would be a bit difficult so I feel that we have to start small and also like, for example, Igloolik will take over Social Development and Pond Inlet would take another department. That way, they will learn from each other and as I stated before, that we are willing and are waiting.

I feel like we do not want to start from the top. We have to start from the bottom. That is the only way that we can succeed. When we first got a social worker in Igloolik in the 60s, even though they were working for the Government, they did not prepare for the future at the time and they did not predict what was going to happen in the future and that was the time that we saw what would happen. We felt that as long as the world is turning that we will be able to survive at that time. Like a lot of people were paying \$2.00 a month for rent and \$67.00 that they made in the month when they started working. As we went on, we realized that it was difficult because it seemed that they started from up and went down but I feel that I would like to advise you that we have to start from the bottom and go up. Because it would be from difficult to positive. That is the way I would like to see it happen.

First of all, I would like to see the Cabinet, like for example, using social development. Like if you have one million in Igloolik and we would use this for social development - that we would get it in one lump sum. It would be used for one year and after a year, or before a year, if the one million is already finished, what



would happen - for example, what would happen. Maybe somebody could answer that question. If we run out of money before the time. That is an example that I use. It does not matter how much. But when it finishes and we still have three or four months to go, what would happen to the people that we are supporting with that social development? That is the kind of problems that I question myself and am wish to get the answers.

I know that it is going to be difficult at times because we have to prepare for the future and this is what I just wanted to mention Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Evaloarjuk. Would the Minister like to respond? Mr. Ng?

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman I will respond because it seems to be referring more to social programs and how he would see that working I guess and problems in that area. I guess my answer would be that first of all, we would have to make sure that when we negotiated the transfer that adequate financial resources went to the community that should allow them to provide whatever sphere of services that they are going to be delivering. We would have to make sure that we provide enough funding to last for the whole year.

If there were problems because of things outside of the control of the municipality or the group that is designated to take on delivery of those programs, I can use for example, because it is in our communities we have these outbreaks of RSV almost on an annual basis in the Nunavut area in particular because of our longer winters. If, for example, a community had the health care programs in their community and they had an outbreak of RSV, I mean that would be an

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exceptional circumstance where we would have a pool of contingency funds somewhere, whether it be at the regional level or the territorial level, to deal with those types of extraordinary circumstances that would come about during the course of a year throughout the Territories, no matter what community it would be. I guess that, in trying to answer the Member's question on funding difficulties where they ran out of money because of extraordinary circumstances, that

is the way that I would envision it working Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ng. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. In regards to funding for communities. They would be given training on financial management and they would have reviews on program development to see where their financial situation is going. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Ms. Thompson. I have Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I want to repeat a statement I made yesterday as a preface to my remarks and that is that I support community control and management. I support communities to control and manage their own affairs, especially in the areas of prime importance to them.

Yesterday, I spoke about my concerns and I also raised some rhetorical questions. At the end of my comments here, I would like to make those as actual questions.

Yesterday, other Members spoke and some Members, I felt were made to feel that criticism was levelled at them for their comments. One comment that was made was that, as politicians, we should be involved in public policy not micro-managing. I believe I have a responsibility to comment, criticize and generally question and compliment the government direction, government policies, government programs and government initiatives. In the course of my job of doing that, if I am micro-managing, then so be it. I am micro-managing. But that is my job.

I said yesterday that community empowerment is an extremely complex process. The words "community empowerment" sound simple but the words of tremendous complexities associated with them and my concerns are following.

That community empowerment not be instituted too fast. That communities determine the pace of the initiative. That pilot projects be assessed and reports

be prepared. That success models be used as role models.

Building community governments as we know them today started in the late 1960's and early 1970's. It is correct that prior to 1967, and some years after in certain areas of the Territories, area administrators were the people in charge. They controlled people. They did things in communities that was not acceptable and certainly not acceptable today. And it was not a good system. But it was a system that was there to bring government into the North.

The new system took many years to take root when the territorial government moved here in 1967 and it was emphasized for many years to develop local government. And yes it was rudimentary. Mr. Evaloarjuk and Mr. Rabesca were part of that government in those days. I just want to remind Members of that. Eventually that system served as a good system, for many years. And now we are ready to move on. We are ready to move on to new systems again.

We are ready to go into an evolution of community empowerment. We want to give communities responsibilities. Public housing, transportation, education, economic development, renewable resources, workfare, welfare reform, community justice, health, social services. That is what communities want to take over. There has to be a concern also with the form of government that is going to take place in Nunavut. It is my understanding that has not been totally decided yet. Neither have we decided it in the West. We do not yet know what

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form this territorial government will take completely.

The government initiative that is before us is twofold. One is empower communities and the other is to cut costs. Now those are my general comments that I want to repeat. I support community empowerment. But let me get to the question.

When we hand over responsibility for all programs in the communities, and I mean you are talking to me about all communities in the Northwest Territories, not just Cambridge Bay, not just the larger communities. You are saying to me that all the communities are going to get this. How does the Minister envision the administration will be done in the communities and how does she envision that the municipal councils will function? And I would like to ask the Minister that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ootes. Madam Minister Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Perhaps I will speak in Inuktitut at this time. If you can listen to your headphones and just not talk to one another.

(Translator) What you had mentioned, I have great respect for and I thank him for it. I am sure there are a lot of issues that are of concern to other people aside from just the MLA's. The people who are looking after the communities are taught how to look after financial situations in the communities as well as the Community Councils know how to operate a community corporation for the community. The community will not be given a responsibility that they are not capable of handling. They have to be worked through until they are to the point that they can handle the situation. They will be advised. At first an advisory role will be given to the administrators as to how, what is possible, with the responsibility that they will be required to take. After the advisory situation, then the community will decide. The administrator of the community will be advised if he would like, if they are capable of handling. After realizing as to how capable the community people are of handling situations the community will set up an agreement or a detailed understanding as to what they are capable of handling. If they cannot handle it, then only after they have understood fully what they can understand - what administration feel then they will be able to take over.

It will be accomplished in small steps. Maybe there at least ten steps to follow through that you can go through community consultation process, the educational process. They will find out exactly what they can handle. There is no way that you could be scared of the fact that something will be missing. From each department they will have a Memorandum of Agreement and after that then they will be able to look after the community themselves.

Any of the communities who can handle a situation and if they are capable of understanding exactly what responsibilities that they are responsible for, then in regards to Nunavut with regards to community empowerment it is in the same field as getting self government. For instance, taking care of land administration then we will be able to handle land administration as well as having community people who can take care of land administration and this will

be in line with the community self government. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have about five to six questions and I would just like to address them fairly direct.

My concern and the reason I raised the last question was that I think Members want to be aware of what we are doing if we hand over all of these programs to the communities, that community councils will be extremely busy - not like today. Community councils will be extremely busy because they have airports to contend with and social services, education, etc. That was the reason for my question. So I want to have

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the government consider this, that we are creating fifty-two bureaucracies in the communities where now one bureaucracy controls all of the people. Eventually, there will be fifty-two bureaucracies because we have fifty-two communities hypothetically. But also there will be fifty-two community councils who will be extremely busy.

My next question concerns the deadline for this program. I wonder if the Minister could tell me if there was a deadline attached to this that you hope to achieve certain things by certain times - that the whole program will be completed by?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ootes. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Is the communities that he is talking about, the fifty-two hamlet councils -- there are fifty-two communities and there will be more added to their responsibilities. We are just trying to place more power into the communities. There are also Housing Association board members that deal with arrears and also they deal with maintenance to houses. There is a lot of work already within those Boards and on top of that, fifty-two councils there are already work that is being done in those councils and they will be dealing with community empowerment -- or they will be getting more power in the communities.

I do not really remember that second question, or the first question, but regarding the deadline. Each community will be taking on those responsibilities only after consultation or only after we have dealt with working with the communities. And also, I think that as a Minister, before the division comes we hope that each community will have more responsibilities and we cannot really say when the deadline is but also we will be working with each council in regards to things that they will be taking on. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. The reason for my question was in a document that I have, at one point, the Minister stated that the deadline for community empowerment would be completed by April 1, 1999. Could the Minister state that is no longer the case?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ootes. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. In regards to my statement, that is the way it is. But I was saying that we will be encouraging the communities to take on these programs but we are trying to prepare them for self-government and I was saying that in 1999 it would be good to see these programs put into the communities before Nunavut becomes a reality. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Ootes. This is your last question. I have to move on to Mr. Rabesca and Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I was going to hand it over. Pardon me. But let me address the question to the Premier. Is the program of community empowerment by this government to be completed by April 1, 1999?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. We cannot after April 1, 1999 commit the Nunavut government or the new government of the Western Territory to continue on with community empowerment. That will be up to the people they elect to the new legislatures on the direction from the community. The issues we are hearing and the support that we are hearing from the communities on this whole issue of community empowerment it will still be there so it will probably continue on. But, we cannot commit after April 1, 1999.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Rabesca.

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, feel that community empowerment is a very important subject for my riding. I agree with what Mr. Ootes was referring to in

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his remarks about how to be cautious as to how much empowerment we are giving to the communities. I am always kind of reluctant to get into transferring of all those powers to communities as soon as possible because I believe in some caution as to how fast we are dealing with this whole transfer. The block funding to the community transfer is possibly for one whole year, and if they run out within a certain time, how soon they will be able to re-fund them again. If they more or less run out of community, or misuse of funds for some particular reason, I guess, and because of some experience the community leaders might not have.

Will this government be able to rescue the municipal government if they have to misuse the funds? I am quite concerned about this. Do we have anybody to coordinate or to look after them, as far as the regional directors are concerned; that is, if they are still in office within the respective communities and regions?

I would certainly like to ask another question on an unrelated matter. It is certainly good to see that we have some community empowerment and some transfers to communities because it is very important. I remember back in the 1970s or the 1980s when people in the communities were always concerned about running their own affairs, and I guess it took time to have some of the powers being transferred to the communities. It is certainly good to see that they are going to get some benefit from the transfers and,

as Mr. Ootes said, most of the communities, I guess, are not totally prepared but they are probably just anxious to go over and try to take over some of the responsibilities that we are already initiating.

Certainly, at the community level right now, there are going to be a lot of other transfers that might be taking place. A lot of activity is going on right now because of land claims coming up. Once the land claim is in place, the communities will be busy concentrating only on that issue. Then they will follow-up on the programs that they might be administering through the federal government. They might be asking the federal government to transfer more from the departments for their benefit and then they might be asking for more transfers and powers from this territorial government as well.

As I said earlier on, they have been more or less been asking the territorial government since the 1970s to see whether they could have more of the responsibility transferred to the communities because they always felt that they were not always in trust with the territorial government running their affairs for them. I think they were just as capable of running their own affairs for many, many years is what I have been seeing. Eventually, I think the reality has been coming to surface.

What I was trying to get at earlier was that there might be some other transfers that they might be seeking regarding how to administer liquor licensing and all that stuff, and possibly gambling. The Department of Justice probably wants to get involved in it, too, and see if they are able to control their own community policing, municipal by-law officers and all that, I guess.

They want to have some of the traffic controls, knowing that BHP is coming into play now. They might have a lot of traffic that might be going through our area and they may certainly want to see that there is a lot of officers out on the road. There is a good possibility of community policing, too. They might even want to have greater control in air traffic control although they do not have a municipal or community airport, but I guess somehow, one way or another, they might find a way to see whether they will be able to see some of the activity to get going within my community regarding getting some sort of an airstrip build by various companies because they are associated with a lot of different companies. They probably might seek funding elsewhere or see whether they could take associated joint ventures with

various companies and then start building their own community airports or something like that.

My most important concern was about being

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cautious about what we do because I think we are just giving too much power to the southern communities that are not prepared. Some of the smaller communities probably are not prepared, but most of the bigger communities are quite prepared to go. I am quite in favour of this community empowerment, but I am just trying to caution the department to see if they will be able to give too much power in a short time period because in a month, I guess, maybe be able to transfer as far as we give them a chance to get some orientation plans set for them in order to get to know what they are getting into because it is the only way we might be able to have a decent transfer program at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Rabesca. I have Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Mr. Chairman, my questions were going to be directed at the Minister who is not here, concerning a request by the communities of Detah and N'dilo to transfer a program. The Minister seems to have stepped out so I will have to ask it tomorrow. While I have the floor, I would like to move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. STEEN:**

Mr. Speaker, your Committee has been considering Bills 20, 21 and 18, Minister's Statement 82-13(3), and tabled documents 90 and 91, and would like to

report that Minister's Statement 82-13(3) is concluded, and that Bills 20, 21 and 18 are ready for third reading.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Arlooktoo. Your motion is in order, Mr. Steen. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Question has been called. All those in favour. All 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, meetings for tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. of the Ordinary Members' Caucus; at 10:00 a.m., of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and at 12:00 noon, of the Management and Services Board.

Orders of the day for Thursday, October 17, 1996:

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

13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters  
  
Tabled Documents 1, 83, 90, 91; Committee Reports 7, 8, 9 and 10
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills: Bills 18, 20 and 21
22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 17, 1996 at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1996