



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

4th Session

Day 1

13th Assembly

HANSARD

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27,
1996**

Pages 1 - 21

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. James Antoine, 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, Mr. Ningark, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Hon. Manito Thompson, Hon. John Todd.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

HON. SAMUEL GARGAN:

Mr. Bilodeau, could you lead us in prayer?

CHAPLAIN BILODEAU:

Oh God our Father, we thank Thee that we can serve the people of the north. We thank Thee that we can gather to enact laws for peace and justice in this land. We thank Thee for the rich blessings that we enjoy, for the many things that we partake of that so many do not. We pray that Thou would bless us at this time with Thy inspiration and Thy guidance and spirit, to help us to remember who we serve and to remember to uphold those principles that we feel are right and serve best the people of the north. We thank Thee for These things and we pray for these things in the thy holy name. Amen.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Amen.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Bilodeau. Members welcome to the new session of this Assembly. Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if Her Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to address this Assembly?

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ITEM 2: OPENING ADDRESS

Commissioner's Opening Address

COMMISSIONER MAKSAGAK:

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly. I am pleased to welcome you to the fourth session of the 13th Legislative Assembly.

When I look back at the past 365 days I am impressed with the work you have accomplished to date, despite the many difficult challenges and circumstances you faced when you took office at this time last year.

Today we mark the beginning of a session that will continue to see many important issues and decisions brought before the members of this House.

In the months to come, you will be reviewing and adopting the 1997-98 territorial budget, addressing a host of constitutional issues and considering a variety of other items in preparation for Division of the Northwest Territories in 1999.

As part of this, the legislative agenda for the fourth session will include the Appropriation Act 1997-98, and the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1996-97.

In addition, the government will be bringing forward four new family law bills, including the Child and Family Services Act, the Adoption Act, the Children's Law Act and the Family Law Act.

These bills represent the culmination of nearly ten years of work on family law reform and will provide the Northwest Territories with modern legislation that reflects the unique circumstances of the north and respects the cultural traditions of its people.

Mr. Speaker, your government considers these bills essential to the good conduct of government and, as such, I recommend their passage.

Mr. Speaker, before this House begins discussion and debate on all of these important issues, I would like to make a personal comment on the spirit and nature of consensus government.

We are in a unique situation in Canada. The 24 members of the Assembly are elected to this House based on what people believe they can offer to government as individuals, rather than as members of some organization or party.

Because of this, each member of this House is free to vote as they wish, and for what they feel is in the best interests of their constituents and the people of the North.

Mr. Speaker, as members know, any decision of this House requires agreement by a majority of members. This means that all members must work together to build consensus by finding common ground and moving forward.

The eyes of the world are upon us as we prepare for April 1, 1999.

We have an opportunity to show the world what can be accomplished when we value our different viewpoints and experiences, when we listen to what others have to say, and when we work together to find solutions that will work for all.

Consensus government is a good form of government. It is a government system you can be proud to be a part of.

Critics may say it does not work well in difficult times. But I believe it is during the difficult times when consensus government is more effective.

As we have learned living in the north, it is when we face difficulty or need help that, as a community, we must draw together and cooperate in order to survive.

Mr. Speaker, as members enter the second year of this term, I encourage you to work together to fulfil the spirit and intent of consensus government.

As Commissioner, and on behalf of all citizens of the Northwest Territories, I would like to thank and commend all members for your hard work and positive efforts over the past year, and encourage your continuing earnest consideration and good judgment in the weeks and months ahead.

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Mr. Speaker, I now declare open the fourth session of the 13th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

The House will come back to order. Item 3, Ministers' Statements. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 1-13(4): Premier's Sessional Statement

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and fellow members.

As we mark the opening of the fourth session of the 13th Assembly of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to take this opportunity to not only reflect upon our achievements over the past year but, more importantly, to talk about how we must work to continue moving ahead towards April 1, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, it is almost exactly one year to the day when the members of this Legislative Assembly took their seats in this House.

At that time, we noted that no other government in the history of the Northwest Territories took office faced with the number and degree of financial, administrative, economic, social and constitutional challenges as those faced by members of the 13th Legislative Assembly.

However, early on, as a group, we decided we must confront all of these issues together.

As a Legislative Assembly, we developed a vision for a financially secure Northwest Territories where people are able to enjoy a good quality of life and have access to the jobs they want and need.

In working to fulfil that vision, over the past 365 days, an extraordinary amount of activity has taken place to address the priorities of this government.

Probably the most notable accomplishment to date has been in our efforts to secure our financial future. Mr. Speaker, as the Honourable Mr. Todd reported during the last session, we are on track in our deficit reduction plan, and are projecting that the deficit for the current year will be about \$43 million.

One of the key contributing factors in achieving this target is our effort to develop a more effective and efficient government structure.

Over the past year, we have begun implementing a strategy for reducing the size and cost of government. As part of this, we have amalgamated departments, reduced duplication of services, to implement change.

In other parts of Canada, where similar action was necessary, governments were only able to bring about change through unilateral legislative action.

By comparison, in the Northwest Territories we were able to negotiate equal or greater reductions without work stoppage and without significant interruptions in levels of service to the public.

I believe that not only speaks well for the people who serve in government, but for the people who work in this government as well.

As we continue to review and improve government structure and operations, we must acknowledge the hard work and cooperation of all of these individuals, and thank them for their efforts in managing in these difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, we have also made great progress in our efforts to help improve economic conditions, and create more job opportunities in the North.

Over the past few weeks, we have celebrated the signing of several agreements to clear the way for the development of the BHP Diamonds Project near Lac de Gras.

As part of that, we have successfully negotiated a socio-economic agreement that guarantees over half the jobs associated with the mining operation will be for people living in the north, and, in turn, over half of those jobs are guaranteed for people of aboriginal descent.

To the credit of BHP Diamonds, and all parties involved in the project, we were all able to rise to the challenge, and work out a deal that is truly beneficial to all, and that is guaranteed to bring economic benefits to the north.

As well, we remain vigilant on our attempt to secure a diamond valuation facility to be based in the north that will reap additional economic benefits associated with the establishment of the first diamond mine in North American.

Mr. Speaker, this past year has also been filled with planning and preparation for the division of the Northwest Territories in 1999.

In the west, the Constitutional Working Group of Western Caucus and the Aboriginal Summit released a Draft Constitution Package to begin the public consultation process and debate on how the west will be governed.

With that launch, we are now in the most important phase of constitutional development for the west. We are determining our future, and have an opportunity unlike any other in our history. Working together, we can create a system that works for everyone, and that allows us to blend our cultures, traditions and rights in an effective and productive manner.

A similar opportunity exists in the east. A substantial amount of work has progressed on the creation of Nunavut. Most recently the Nunavut Implementation Committee has released Footprints 2, a report outlining recommendations on moving ahead with the creation of a new government for Nunavut.

As members know, as an active participant in the implementation process, the Government of the Northwest Territories is currently drafting an official response to that report. In preparing our response, we will be seeking your input and comments in the days ahead.

As with the western constitutional debate, this issue deserves open and effective debate to ensure a positive and successful outcome. Our challenge over the weeks and months ahead is to work with all of the parties involved - in both the east and the west - to balance the efforts to ensure all activities are conducted in a fair, equitable and timely manner.

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Our goal, as I have stated in the past, is to do all we can as a government to make April 1, 1999 a day for celebration. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is worth noting that all discussions on division and the formation of the two new governments have included recognition of the inherent right to self-government.

Our aboriginal culture and population are among the things that make us unique in the Canadian landscape. It also provides us with an opportunity to create unique, progressive and positive governments for the north.

The Commissioner stated in her opening remarks that the eyes of the world are upon us. More importantly, the eyes of all northerners are upon us as we work through the maze of uncertainty, and do what we can to make both new territories financially and politically viable.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the things I have highlighted here today, there is also a long list of initiatives on which we have begun work, and that we will see completed in the months to come. By any standard, our achievements to date have been remarkable and significant, and serve as a testament for the efforts of every member of this Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken for the past few minutes about where we have been.

Now I believe we must ask ourselves where do we go from here? How do we focus our energies so that we can make best use of the time that remains?

In accomplishing all of the things I have just outlined, it is important to note we have taken positive action on each of the ten priorities we set out for this Assembly as part of our Building a Foundation for the Future: Agenda for Change.

But as we take our next steps forward, it is now important to narrow our scope, and start drawing our priorities together towards a common goal...toward our common vision.

Mr. Speaker, while the ten priorities we established will remain vital to our decision-making process, I believe we must now focus on three core priorities for the future:

One, to establish two new viable territories by April 1, 1999; two, to improve economic conditions; and three, to address social conditions.

The methods, or processes by which we will accomplish these things will include our priorities of community empowerment, community wellness, taking action on aboriginal issues, improving the structure of government, being heard at the national level and doing all we can to control our own future.

But at the same time, focusing on these three critical issues will allow us to advance on the road to completing what we have set out to do.

These three priorities must be central to the decision-making process associated with the 1997-98 budget, and must guide what we debate in this House as we continue to establish a firm foundation for the future.

Mr. Speaker, we have embarked upon a path of change. It is also a path that we collectively must believe is for the best for the people of the Northwest Territories, as well as for the future of the two new territories.

At this time last year, we all acknowledged these would not be easy times, and now, if anything, our jobs will become more challenging in the weeks and months to come.

Mr. Speaker, every member of this House chose to run and to serve the people of the north, and now, more than ever, we must stand behind our choice to serve our people and to govern effectively. But I would like to remind members that government is not

designed to be all things to all people. Government means balancing and allocating resources in the best interest of all - not just a few.

In some cases there will be people who feel the effects of change and of our decisions more than others, and while affecting or changing some aspects of peoples' lives is not something we like to do, in many cases it is a result of something we need to do.

It has always been a challenge to balance the needs of the individual with the needs of the whole. But in times when money is tight, the change is vital, that is particularly difficult.

In general, Mr. Speaker, we must not let the short-term impacts of our long-term plans direct our actions. We simply cannot afford to debate every short-term issue, complaint, or concern.

As MLAs, we must continue to deal with individuals and specific circumstances as they arise, but as a Legislative Assembly we must continue to focus on the long-term goals.

As elected officials, our job is to set direction. It is not our job to manage the day-to-day operation of the government. If we do not focus on our jobs of moving the government and the north forward at a broader level, we will not have done all we can do to lay the groundwork for the creation of two new and prosperous Canadian territories.

Mr. Speaker, we have set a course towards what we believe is right, and now we must continue to work together to stay on that course. If we do not maintain that course, more people will suffer in the long run that could ever be affected in the processes of implementing change and fulfilling our vision.

As a government and as a Legislative Assembly, we only have about 850 days left to accomplish an ambitious, and extremely important agenda. We cannot afford to waste even half a day if we want to make a difference for the people in the north, and leave a positive legacy for future generations of northerners.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to summarize what I believe outlines what we must do if we are going to fulfil our vision.

First, we must focus our priorities on division, improving economic conditions, and addressing social conditions.

To make this government and this Assembly effective, these three core priorities must be at the heart of what every MLA must focus on from here on in.

Second, we must continue to work together, as cooperatively as possible, and as the Commissioner said, in the true spirit of consensus government.

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Third, we must take the broad view of all the large issues facing the north, and on the three priorities on which we must now direct our energies. This is particularly important on division, where it would be easy for all of us to think in terms of our specific ridings, or in east and west.

We must remember as a whole, and in this House, we are the Government of the Northwest Territories, and we must think in terms of the whole, not any specific part.

As it says in our own caucus chamber, Change can come from the power of many, but only when it comes together to form that which is invincible...the power of one.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we must stay the course we have set for ourselves. As we have already seen, that may mean we have to weather a few storms, and fight some big waves, but if we can ride it out, I believe when we reach our destination, we will say it was worth the journey.

Mahsi cho. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 2-13(4): Ministers Absent From House

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise members that the Honourable Goo Arlooktoo will be absent from the House today, Thursday, and Friday to accompany Ronald Irwin, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, in the Canadian delegation to Nuuk, Greenland. Mr. Arlooktoo will be representing the Government of the Northwest Territories.

As well, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Kelvin Ng will be absent from the House today, to attend a meeting

of the Ministerial Council of Social Policy Renewal and Reform in Toronto.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister's statements. Mr. Todd.

Minister's Statement 3-13(4): Appointment Of Workers' Compensation Board Chairperson

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce the appointment of Mr. Fred Koe of Yellowknife as the new chairperson the Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Koe replaces the former chair, Mr. Jeffrey Gilmour, who recently became Secretary to the Cabinet and Deputy Minister of the Department of the Executive for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Koe, a certified management accountant, is a long time northerner and businessman who is familiar with the working conditions in the north. He has a first hand understanding of the operation of the Workers' Compensation Board as he chaired the 1992 Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions review of the Workers' Compensation Board during his time as a member of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Koe assumes this position on a part-time basis. The responsibilities of chief executive officer, formerly handled by the chairperson, have been delegated to the President, Mr. Gerry Meier. The move to a part-time chairperson is consistent with the recommendation contained in the Report of the 1989 Review Panel, the 1992 Standing Committee on Agencies, Board and Commissions and the WCB Garven Report.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Minister's Statement 4-13(4): Socio-Economic Agreement On BHP Diamonds Project

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, On October 22nd the Government of the Northwest Territories and BHP Diamonds Incorporated signed an agreement which ensures that the construction and operation of the first diamond mine in Canada will contribute to the social, cultural and economic well-being of northern residents.

This agreement provides a framework to ensure that training, employment and business opportunities are made available to northern residents. It is the first time our government has requested a company to meet specific targets for employing residents, including specific targets for aboriginal residents.

We are all too familiar with the high unemployment rate in the Northwest Territories, particularly for the younger portion of our population. Mr. Speaker, this agreement reaffirms this government's commitment to offer pre-employment training programs and apprenticeship programs to help ensure northern residents, and particularly our youth, have the necessary employment skills. Later today, I will table a copy of the Socio-Economic Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, the development of the Socio-Economic Agreement was not the only condition this government placed on its support for the project. The environmental agreement and the impact benefit agreements with the affected aboriginal groups were equally important. I am pleased to state that significant progress has been made on these other conditions as well. The environmental agreement is currently undergoing legal and technical review, and should be finalized by mid-December. Later today I will table the implementation protocol leading to an environmental agreement signed by both governments, BHP, the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, Akaitcho Treaty 8, Metis Nation and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

Mr. Speaker, impact benefit agreements with the Dogrib Treaty 11, and the Yellowknives Treaty 8, and Lutsel K'e Treaty 8 have been signed. Progress in negotiating impact benefits agreements with the Inuit of Kugluktuk and the Metis Nation continue to be made.

These agreements set a precedent for future development projects in the Northwest Territories. They give indication that this government supports economic development which maximizes opportunities for northern residents, and minimizes the social and environmental impacts.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the cooperation and hard work that took place over the last few months amongst all the parties involved and this hard work and diligence also paid off in the benefits that we all will derive from the development of this mine. I am confident that this spirit of cooperation and mutual respect will continue over the life of the project. Mahsi.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Ministers' statements. Are there any further ministers' statements? Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On The Future Of Canadian North Airlines

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like many northerners, I have been watching the recent trials of Canadian Airlines with a great deal of interest. I recognize how crucial air travel is to the north, and I appreciate the crucial role Canadian Airlines and its predecessor, Pacific Western Airlines, has played in providing northerners with this vital service.

Mr. Speaker, the future of this airline is now at stake. Canadian North is, and has been, an important part of the northern economy. Not only do they provide approximately 100 jobs to the north, they also contribute between \$7 million and \$8 million annually to the northern economy. Some of these contributions are contract employees in communities supplying ground services and monies for sale, marketing, advertising and joint promotion, airport operations, a form of fuel purchases, hotel expenses in various communities, terminal fees, management expenses, and supply of service by local catering companies. Community support through various discount travels for events and charities and for sporting groups.

The importance and significance of Canadian North is centred around all these services, and the loss of Canadian Airline, would have a direct effect on many additional people.

The competition that Canadian Airlines provides in the marketplace ensures that airfares in the north are reasonable and that northern communities have the

greatest opportunities to be served by competitive commercial airlines.

If Canadian Airlines were to go under, it would be a serious and financial inconvenience to many Canadians. But the effects in the north would be devastating. We would suffer a great proportionate impact with the loss of jobs to our small, fragile economy. As well, we would feel the effects of reducing competition through higher airfare and reduced services.

Mr. Speaker, the northern economy cannot afford to lose Canadian Airlines, that is why I am glad to see progress as being made in negotiations between the airline and the government such as Alberta and B.C. where they have taken the initiative to rebate a fuel tax levy of approximately 1 million dollars, in Alberta's case, to assist the company.

Later today, I will be asking the Minister of Transportation questions regarding the role the Government of the Northwest Territories can play to ensure the survival of this important corporate citizen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Changes To NWT Mineral Royalties Regime

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs has released a discussion paper that suggests changes to the mineral royalties regime in the NWT. In my opinion, this set of proposals, if implemented, would hurt northern development. I think the CBC summarized the situation best in the news item earlier this week. Their reporter said Ottawa wants mining to become more expensive, and it is making no secret about it.

In the 1995 Federal Budget, parliament directed the Northern Affairs Department to review its mining royalties. The project had several objectives, mostly however, it attempted to propose a system that featured competitive levels of taxation and profits. In attempting to achieve this goal, the department has drafted a proposal that calls for higher royalties all around, for example, it raises the maximum royalty

rate from 12 to 14 percent. It also ends the three year royalty-free period for new mines.

Mr. Speaker, I do not see how this will benefit the north, in my view it will discourage development.

First, a new royalty system will do little for us until we complete Northern Accord negotiations. As it stands, any new money that is raised through taxation, goes to Ottawa. We can be fairly sure the Federal government will not send it back to us.

Second, raising royalties will not create long term returns. It will only squeeze a few more bucks out of existing mines and deter others from starting up. If we want to generate a strong cash flow from mineral royalties, we have to create a decent environment for mineral development. This means, that our efforts should focus on building an efficient approval system, which must include environmental reviews and mechanisms for negotiating community benefit agreements.

This is the key to obtaining long term sustainable development. Long term sustainable development will do more to increase revenue for mining and create much needed jobs than will hikes in the royalty rates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Proposed Decentralized Model of Government For Nunavut

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have recently had the opportunity to review the Nunavut Implementations Commission's Report entitled, Footprints in the Snow 2. This is a 300 page document that lays out the framework for the proposed new decentralized government for Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, this extensive and thorough document speaks very highly of the Commission's work and dedication, ensuring that Nunavut gets off to an organized and healthy beginning.

The report covers such areas as telecommunications in Nunavut, recruitment and employment for the workforce in Nunavut, required infrastructure, the decentralized model of government, financial matters, the administration of justice in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, the 20 year trek to arrive at this point has been a long

and hard road for the Inuit leaders and pioneers. A large part of the dream was the potential for Inuit people to secure gainful employment and be authors of their own destiny.

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In all of these small off-road communities in Nunavut, there is great anticipation and hope that the new proposed, decentralized government will deliver these much needed and wanted jobs.

Mr. Speaker, this brings me to my main point of concern. In order for the residents of Nunavut to secure the jobs there must be a decentralized government, and in order for these jobs to occur, there must be sufficient funding negotiated in the gross expenditure base to ensure that decentralization will, indeed, occur.

It is also critical that the federal government provide an adequate level of funding to the gross Expenditure Base to ensure that this is realized. After speaking to my fellow MLA, Mr. Picco, who represents the largest constituency in Nunavut and also to, Mr. Barnabas, who represents one of the smaller ridings, there is a consensus that this is not just an issue with the Kivallivik.

Mr. Speaker, the new territory of Nunavut is suffering in a number of areas, which I believe are all in some way inter-related, such as the lack of proper housing, health care concerns, high unemployment (in some areas up to 80 percent).

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last issue, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately is, Nunavut has the highest suicide rate in the country.

Mr. Speaker, I realize that the decentralized Nunavut government will not solve all of these problems, but it will certainly go a long way to help alleviate these socio-economic concerns. Therefore, we must all

work together, both east and west to this end. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Aboriginal Involvement In Future Government Structures

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Aboriginal leaders, mayors, members of this House, this debate discussed the draft constitution, October 16, 1996. Finally after years and years of talking and more talk, people that have watched the Territory have a paper they can review and make recommendations on. The present system of government is so outdated and did not involve the people of the north it was meant to govern.

The north is unique in its make-up, diversity of language and culture, aboriginal people in the east and west, are now in the majority. But, in 1999, the new territory, Nunavut, will be created and the aboriginal people in the west will find themselves in a minority in their homeland. The aboriginal people in the west will face problems similar to aboriginal people in the provinces and other parts of the world. Aboriginal people in Canada and other parts of the world fight a never-ending battle of recognition of their rights in their homeland.

Here is a perfect opportunity for aboriginal and non-aboriginal people in the west to build a partnership in the government style of true and honest government, and the role that aboriginal people play in the design of this new government. This is the only kick at the can and to demonstrate to Canada and the rest of the world, that the true people of this land can have a positive influence on the government. Many people in the major centres who support the status quo will speak against the draft constitution.

I believe that there is a larger majority of those who will support a once in a lifetime opportunity to work for the federal government for our northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Community Wellness,
Economic, And Social Conditions in Iqaluit

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past week, the town of Iqaluit, held a community wellness and strategy workshop.

It was a great success. Part of the workshop was a visiting process, to see where we wanted our community to be over the next decade. In conjunction with the workshop was a fashion show and other activities. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the organizers, Madeline Darg, Rosemary Cooper, Mary Willman, and the rest of the committee for a job well done.

Some people would like us to think that Iqaluit is the fat cat with jobs and businesses taking off. Some people think that Iqaluit is a community of largesse. Mr. Speaker, Iqaluit is one of the fastest growing communities in the territories. However, the facts are, our homeless shelter is full every night, Salvik is operating a soup kitchen with a demand continuing to increase, we are short over 70 social housing units, the only work available is either directly or indirectly related to government. The retail store sales are down. Are these indicators of a rich community? I think not.

Mr. Speaker, there have been 37 suicides in our community over the past 10 years. Some bergerites in this Assembly would like us to believe that Iqaluit is a dark hole, sucking in all the jobs and opportunities. The bergerites would like us to think that Iqaluit is not doing its fair share with the deficit reduction plans. Mr. Speaker, losing over 50 positions, having our capital budget slashed based in a community that is completely dominated by government, is doing its fair share.

I was elected to represent the constituency. I cannot, will not, roll over and play dead when statements are being made in and out of public which are not true and are exaggerated. I would invite any and all members of this Assembly to come to our community and see first hand our situation. Innuendo is cheap, Mr. Speaker, and should not be the basis on which decisions are being made. When I return home I will convey to the people using the soup kitchen and the people staying in the homeless shelter how well off we are supposed to be -- that is according to the uninformed statements made by the bergerites and others. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Grise Fiord Re-supply
Emergency

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to bring an item that was a concern in our region, in our community, Grise Fiord. You are probably aware that on October 4th I raised the issue of failure of a sea lift vessel to reach Grise Fiord with annual resupply of food. (End of translation)

We were assured that the government would make sure and I quote, the community is adequately supplied for the year to come. We also received assurance from this government that it will do everything possible to make sure our communities have adequate food levels and supplies in the communities to survive through the winter months. Many of us come from small, isolated communities and many of us can remember very clearly the reality and single store, perhaps Hudson's Bay store, perhaps a Co-op store, as the only source of food and other supplies for our people.

Grise Fiord is still the most northern community. It is still one of the smallest and has only one store. The people of Grise Fiord have a long tradition of working hard to take care of themselves and they are not in the habit of turning to the government for help. This year ice conditions have prevented the ship carrying the year's supply for the Co-op store from reaching Grise Fiord. This is no one's fault. This is the reality of the high arctic. By the middle of October the issue was in the hands of several government departments, and the standard bureaucratic exchange of phone calls, faxes, issue papers and discussions had started. This is no longer an emergency. Mr. Speaker, this is now an exercise to minimize any cost to this government. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The member for the High Arctic is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent, Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Without financial assistance from this government, Mr. Speaker, the people of Grise Fiord will have to pay an additional \$11 for 5 kilos of flour or sugar and an additional \$5.06 for 4 litres of laundry soap and an additional \$27 for a package of Jumbo Pampers.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Shame. Shame.

MR. BARNABAS:

The amount of assistance needed to avoid this emergency surcharge is about \$80,000. In October, Mr. Speaker, another emergency was declared in High Arctic. This was also a problem which was no one's fault. It, too, was a reality of life in the high arctic. A third bad fall season was threatening the existence of caribou, unique to our part of the world. This government worked efficiently and quickly with the federal government and Canadian Armed Forces to put into effect a rescue mission to capture and transport 20 to 25 pairs of caribou to a facility in southern Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to explain, not to criticize it. Rather I see this as an excellent example of the government working well and cooperatively to create speed and accomplish something important. There was a sense of urgency. My concern is that the one emergency resulted in well organized and urgently implemented effort to correct a problem. It was also very well publicized.

The other emergency also in my constituency has become just another bureaucratic exercise. With issue papers and efforts by the government departments to force the Co-op to provide needed assistance - rather than taking the lead making suggestions and actively assisting in solving the problem, we are constantly talking of making cuts, saving money, living within our means. We can budget \$100 thousand to preserve a caribou species from possible extinction. We can spend, perhaps, one third of that to do this. Yet this government cannot quickly solve the question of getting annual food and supply needs of the community of Grise Fiord to the location.

It will take three departments, considerable staff and weeks of discussion to decide how to minimize the government assistance. This should have taken two people two weeks to work a helpful and constructive

solution. Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the appropriate minister for a clear explanation of this situation for the quick, efficient and fair solution to the other emergency in the high arctic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Appreciation For Minister of MACA's Visit To Rae Lakes

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to welcome my colleagues to this fourth session. As you remember, during the last session, I made a member's statement and questioned the minister of MACA about a capital project in Rae Lakes and how the community was hoping to proceed with that.

Today, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister, Manikot Thompson for sparing some of her valuable time to meet with the community members of Rae Lakes yesterday. This meeting was the first time the community was able to address the minister personally. Although no decisions were made, I believe headway was made, if nothing less than the fact that the two finally got to meet. There are, of course, hurdles that must be crossed but at least we have started the first step.

Again, I would like to thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Relocation Of Pangnirtung Runway

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translator) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, I would like to thank the minister of MACA, Hon. Manikot Thompson and also Mr. Goo Arlooktoo for coming to Broughton Island. Thank you.

My member's statement has to do with an airstrip that needs to be taken care of, the Pangnirtung airstrip needs to be dealt with urgently. The airstrip is right in the middle of the community and it is important that this is moved. There are

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three different airlines flying into the community and sometimes there are other flights that come in. The hamlet in Pangnirtung in November asked that this be dealt with quickly. Later today I will be asking some questions of the Minister of Transportation in regards to this item. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement On Community Disparities in Gains and Reductions

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As one of the bergerites, I presume, a membership that expands to include, I think, everybody outside of Iqaluit who share the same sentiment, I just want to rise today to make a comment that in terms of government cuts that, yes, there are some communities that have experienced, to this point, greater cuts than others, communities like Inuvik, like Rankin Inlet, like Cambridge Bay, like Yellowknife, and yes, Fort Smith. So, I cannot argue with the honourable member from Iqaluit's description of his riding as a black hole, if that is the term he uses to characterize it, if he wants to, he should know.

-- Laughter

MR. MILTENBERGER:

History and a capital plan will show, I think, that he is not wrong in this description. I would also like to point out that, as we move towards 1999, the new capital of Nunavut will be slated to experience a net increase of 164 new jobs, a lot of which are going to come from the west. So, Iqaluit stands to prosper mightily, in spite of the member from Iqaluit's comments that these are just numbers and just paper and they are not real. These come straight out of Footprints 2 so I would assume he is not denying the validity or relevance of that seminal document. We do have to continue to move towards fairness and equity and I think all of us, especially those in the larger communities that have already anteed up in our reduction plan are going to be pushing that. I can

assure Fort Smith, along with the other communities, I will be pushing that, in fact, that commitment be honoured this time around. Thank you, very much.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement On Report Of The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People recently released its final report. Commission members, their staff and all the people and organizations who contributed to the process have all done so out of a sincere desire to improve the lives of the Aboriginal people of Canada. Here in the Northwest Territories where the majority of residents are Aboriginal, we see the existing problems close up and in great detail. The numbers tell a horror story. We have the highest illiteracy rate in the country, the highest drop-out rate, the highest unemployment rate, the highest crime rate and the highest suicide rate.

The Commission's recommendations are designed to alleviate these kind of problems. Unfortunately the report is being greeted with a definite lack of enthusiasm because it proposes spending an additional \$2 billion a year on programs to improve the lives of Aboriginal people. What people do not realize is that there is a cost to doing nothing. Doing nothing is costing the federal government almost \$5 billion a year now in spending on financial assistance, on programs that demonstrate limited success and in lost revenue due to Aboriginal people not contributing to the economy. Doing nothing is also costing Aboriginal people almost \$3 billion a year, mostly in income that they are not earning because they are not adequately educated. These costs will continue to rise over the coming years.

It is estimated that it will cost \$11 billion a year in 20 years. These financial costs are in addition to the high social costs. Look at the lack of hope many Aboriginal youth face everyday. Look at the poor educational facilities, a lack of social support, a lack of adequate housing. Look at the results of that, rampant alcohol and drug abuse and a horrible suicide rate. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard other members speak about these today as well as in the past. I am sure we

will hear them speak about it in the future. 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. Mr. Erasmus you have unanimous consent.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This country has to realize that the cost of doing nothing is unacceptable. All governments, including the Government of the Northwest Territories, have to devote resources to improving the lives of our people.

I have a special concern with the need for adult education and, later this week, I will be raising this issue here in the House. We have to strengthen our education programs so our people can have hope in themselves, in their ability to contribute and in their ability to benefit from the economy. This is a single example of an area where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Mr. Speaker, the Royal Commission said it would be a travesty of justice if action to rectify the results of a history of dispossession were abandoned on grounds of fiscal restraint. I agree. We cannot let the spectre of a deficit keep us from making decisions which will, in the long run, benefit both our economy and our fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, in the Premier's opening address he indicated that we now need to focus on three core priorities. Two of those priorities are to improve economic conditions and to address social conditions. Mr. Speaker, I hope this is an indication he is willing to put his money where his mouth is - to put money into educating the thousands of people in the NWT who cannot get a job because their education level is too low. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement On Focusing Our Efforts On People, Not Process

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome the members back to the fourth session. I would also like to send greetings to my family back home.

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-- Applause

MR. ROLAND:

Mr. Speaker, it has been a year since we came together as the 13th Assembly and we faced a difficult challenge. We have met that challenge to a degree, but I find myself questioning, have we approached it from the right angle? I know we have to, for future generations, balance the budget. For the lives of the future, for our children, for education and health care, we need to manage our way through this. Mr. Speaker, my concern is that we are focusing on government and not the people. My year here has taught me that within this arena we deal with policy, procedure and process.

I will refer to a comment by a colleague, when it comes to the constitutional affairs of the NWT, that although they have great significant political value - they have little nutritional value. I believe that as a government we need to start focusing on the people in our communities. The people in our communities have become dependent on the way government does business. I believe we are trying to change that focus. I think in all we do, we need to sit back and think of the people in our communities when we look at the way the government operates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Morin.

Member's Statement On Tribute To Jim Bourque

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. October 19, 1996 was a sad day for the north. We lost one of our best friends. Jim Bourque was one of the greatest people I have ever known. He taught me a lot personally and he set an example for me and for all people of the north by just being himself, an honest, fair and caring man who was respected by everyone who knew him. In over 30 years of service to the Government of the Northwest Territories, Jim worked hard on behalf of many people - from trappers to business people, at the local, national and international level. There was his work with the Constitutional Development Committee, his

term as the president of the Metis Association, his four years as chairman of the Fur Institute of Canada, as a director of the Workers' Compensation Board and the thousands hours he gave to many community group meetings and organizations -- all aimed at one thing, helping people. There are not many people who will ever accomplish even half of what he did. While his work will live on, it will not be quite the same without his sense of humour, his booming big voice, and his stories.

Jim's wife, Sharleen, asked me to pass along a sincere thank you on behalf of Jim's family to all of the people who have helped them out over the past few weeks. In particular, she wanted me to thank everyone in the territorial government and the people who helped organize the memorial service that was held for Jim in October. She also asked me to thank the hundreds of people who have sent their thoughts and prayers for the family. It was a hard time for the family and they appreciate all of the heartfelt support they did receive. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 34(5) I move seconded by the Member for Iqaluit that Minister's Statement 1-13(4) entitled Premier's Sessional Statement be moved into committee of the whole for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order, Mr. Ootes. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I would like to recognize His Worship, the Mayor of Taloyoak, Mr. Dennis Lyall up in the gallery.

-- Applause

MR. NINGARK:

Further, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Wilfred Wilcox, the mayor of Cambridge Bay. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a group of women in the Gallery today. They are from the Women in Industry Program at Aurora College, Yellowknife Campus. Mr. Speaker, this program is a partnership venture which involves three partners, the Metis Alliance, the Department of Education and Aurora College. It provides education and employment training for women to prepare to work in industry in non-traditional employment roles. With the instructor, Sharon Morrison, we have today the students, Laura Lorenzen, Elizabeth Taylor, Mary Theresa Dryneck, Eva Dryneck, Deanna Heron, Jane Mercredi, Annie Kendi, Leigh Latham, Jennifer Barry, Barb Gillis, Alice MacKenzie, Agnes Grandjambe and Mary Adele Crapeau. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors to the gallery. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my constituents from Arviat and Baker Lake. From Arviat, Mr. Simeonie Mamgark of the Prospectors' Association and from Baker Lake, a good friend of mine, Mr. Andy also with the Prospectors' Association, and with the Keewatin Inuit Association, Mr. Kono Tattweene and, also, Joe Karetak representing Eskimo Point Lumber and Expediting. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize in the gallery, Mr. Richard Connelly, Mr. Graham Dargo and, of course, the president of the Sakku Development Corporation Mr. Joe Kaloojak. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. James Carol, the editor of the Slave River Journal from Fort Smith, in the gallery.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and our pastor Raymond Bilodeau from Yellowknife. Elder Peterson is from Tennessee and Elder Brown is from Utah. These missionaries are stationed in Yellowknife for the next six months, with the mission of bringing happiness to family lives. They are doing community service in areas such as the hospital and schools in Dettah and are involved with sports and recreational programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Sharleen Bourque, Edwin Bourque and Arthur Bourque, all of Yellowknife. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KRUTKO:

I would like to recognize all those people that have not been recognized and thank them for being here.

-- Applause and laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Are there any further recognitions of visitors in the gallery? Item 6: Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 1-13(4): Incremental and Transitional Funding For Two New Territories

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, the recently announced Footsteps in the New Snow 2 goes a long way in the development process for division before and after. There is some concern being raised about the financing of both territories, east and west. Can the minister explain the process for incremental, transitional and gross expenditure based funding and financing for both the western and Nunavut territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 1-13(4): Incremental and Transitional Funding For Two New Territories

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, discussions are currently under way with the Minister of Finance for Canada, the Hon. Paul Martin and we are optimistic that in the coming weeks that we will be able to work with the Department of Finance to determine, firstly, the terms of reference as to how we would proceed with two new forms of financing arrangements.

Secondly, to get some degree of comfort as to the extent of the incremental costs that will be necessary to fund both the east and the west and, thirdly, to get some time lines as to when we can conclude a new

fiscal arrangement to the satisfaction of both east and the west. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 2-13(4): Pangnirtung Airstrip Relocation

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier on, we have a concern about the airstrip in Pangnirtung. We feel that it should be relocated and the people of Pangnirtung have a major concern about this. I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation, the Hon. Mr. Antoine. Concerning this, have there been any discussions about relocating the airstrip in Pangnirtung and have you done anything about this? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 2-13(4): Pangnirtung Airstrip Relocation

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are aware of the Pangnirtung airport, there are two major concerns that we have with this airport, and one of the first faults is the location, as the honourable member has stated, and the second is the length of this airport, as well, it is a problem.

For the information of the honourable member, in 1993, the Department of Transportation studied this issue looking at the relocation and upgrading of the airport. A study was done that identified alternative sites and we did a cost comparison.

The end result was that the cost was very, very high. I think the lengthening of the present airstrip is going to cost the same as relocating the airport to another location. The cost was something like \$11 million. In this time of budget restraint, it was difficult. In 1993 the department concluded that the cost to relocate and upgrade the airport could not be justified at that time, and the financial situation has become even drearier this time around, so it is difficult to accommodate the requests of the citizens of Pangnirtung. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions supplementary, Mr. Enuaraq.

Supplementary To Question 2-13(4): Pangnirtung Airstrip Relocation

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Transportation, the Hamlet of Pangnirtung has stated, in a letter, that they would not like to see the airport be moved to the valley area, the Pangnirtung hamlet would like to see it closer to the shore.

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I would like to ask the Department of Transportation, if this will be done, to relocate the airstrip to the shore?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 2-13(4): Pangnirtung Airstrip Relocation

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department just recently received this letter and are still looking into that request. However, the position of the Department of Transportation at this point in time is that the present airport will continue to be used. In fact, the request to move the airport, or to lengthen it, we have been looking into it, it would be very costly to lengthen or relocate it at this present time.

However, the department has gone ahead and made some improvements and have recently completed construction of a new airport terminal building in 1996. The department has also begun to replace the lighting at the airport, with the majority of this work to be undertaken in 1997. As for the requests of the hamlet, the department is still looking into it, and will be responding to the hamlet at the appropriate time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Question 3-13(4): Polar Bear Quotas in Hall Beach

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translator) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and

Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, back in 1974-75 when I was elected as a member of this House, the community of Hall Beach, was given a quota of polar bear and, to this date, they have never been given an extension of that quota number. Can the minister indicate to me, if they plan to amend the amount of quota for polar bears in that community? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 3-13(4): Polar Bear Quotas in Hall Beach

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the quotas on polar bears are set by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and as such, it would be to this board, that we would put a question of this nature, in regard to any changes in the allocations of quotas. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Supplementary To Question 3-13(4): Polar Bear Quotas in Hall Beach

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translator) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that the people of Hall Beach have indicated numerous times that they wish to see a higher number of polar bears quota. They have a big problem with nuisance bears in that community. As a matter of fact, last summer a polar bear approached one of the camps and marauded the tents of one of the communities.

But as far as the laws go they are still not able to catch these polar bears legally. So, we wish to see a higher number of polar bear quotas for that community, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 3-13(4): Polar Bear Quotas in Hall Beach

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

When the specific communities or peoples wish to request changes to quotas and polar bears, it is our job to pass this on, with whatever substantiation we can provide in support or in comment of such a request, to management boards, such as the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. We would be prepared to work with the community of Hall Beach to ensure that their request for a change in the polar bear quotas be responded to by the appropriate board in a timely fashion, and as I say we would be prepared to work with the board to expedite that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Oral questions, Mr. Henry.

Question 4-13(4): The Future Of Canadian North Airlines

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Premier. Earlier today I spoke regarding the importance to the northern economy of Canadian Airlines. I would like to ask the Premier, if he agrees with my assessment of the importance of Canadian North, and Canadian Airlines, to the north.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 4-13(4): The Future Of Canadian North Airlines

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not pay enough attention when the member was making his statement, so I will not say whether I agree with his statement or not. But what I will say is that we, as a government, believe that Canadian Airlines is very important to the Northwest Territories. It is one of our few major air carriers. We would be very supportive of Canadian Airlines. I know they are going through some difficult times right now, and as a government, we are also very supportive of Canadian's approach to working together with their employees, unions and other partners to try to find a solution to their current circumstances.

I think we in the north can relate to their consensus style of negotiation problem-solving better than anyone else in Canada. Like I said earlier, Canadian Airlines is very, very important to the north. We have

to fly everywhere. So Canadian is needed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 4-13(4): The Future Of Canadian North Airlines

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to let the Premier know that I listened to every word he said, when he made his presentation today, so I am sure in the future, he will probably listen to mine.

Just this week, Mr. Speaker, the Premier of Alberta announced that he had planned to cut the cost to Canadian Airlines of the fuel tax that would be charged by that province.

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This is reportedly to save Canadian Airlines approximately 1 million dollars. Has the Premier, in conjunction with the Minister of Finance, considered introducing a similar tax cut here as a means to further encourage the survival of Canadian Airlines? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 4-13(4): The Future Of Canadian North Airlines

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that we collect approximately 8 hundred thousand dollars a year and the percentage of tax on that is a cent per litre for us as a government, that is it, so it would not make a big difference. But we will be keeping track of this issue. I have talked to Mr. Remple, President of Canadian Airlines Regional, and he keeps us well informed. We are hoping that they come to a successful agreement with their union and we encourage all parties to continue to negotiate and we look forward to assisting which ever way we can, but it is very limited from the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, oral questions supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 4-13(4): The Future Of Canadian North Airlines

MR. HENRY:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker. Will the Premier be willing to consider the fuel tax incentive and other initiatives that would assist Canadian Airlines out of their present predicament? Thank you, very much.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 4-13(4): The Future Of Canadian North Airlines

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the members if I misled them in my previous answer because it was \$800,000 for all airline tax, for all the airlines, not just Canadian. So it is a fairly small portion and as I said earlier, we are going to be as supportive as we can. Financially, I do not know what we can do, we have our own problems that we have to address. We have to take a look at it and make sure of the support as much as possible, but financially, as my good colleague always says when I talk to him, there is no money. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 5-13(4): Grise Fiord Sealift Difficulties

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I explained how the people of Grise Fiord, the northern-most community of Canada have received real support and assistance from this government, in solving the problem with the failed sea-lift. I first raised this emergency issue with the government in the House on October 4, today is November 27, and it is my understanding that the government has still not committed any financial assistance to offset the increased costs of all the goods that have been flown into Grise Fiord.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier, can he please inform the House why this government has still not offered any concrete assistance to the people of

Grise Fiord almost 8 weeks after this issue was raised in this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 5-13(4): Grise Fiord Sealift Difficulties

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start off by supplying some background to this issue to the members of the Legislative Assembly. The government, the Canadian Coastguard and Sealift, went into Grise Fiord on August 30, 1996 and delivered all 88.15 tons of freight. Organizations served, include GNWT, Grise Fiord Inuit Cooperation, building materials, Hamlet Housing Association, NWT Power Corporation, RCMP and the school. There were also a number of private individuals who received freight on the Canadian Coastguard. The Grise Fiord Inuit Coop, the Housing Association, and the Hamlet decided not to ship all their goods through the government sealift this summer. Instead they chose to arrange the shipment through a private shipper who was unable to reach the community due to ice conditions.

Myself, as well as the Minister of Public Works and Services, committed that GNWT staff would be made available to provide administrative support, if affected organizations required assistance in making alternative arrangements for delivery. The GNWT would consider on a case by case basis, funding support, where there is evidence that residents would suffer unduly, the GNWT will not provide support to shipment of goods that are not considered essential for the community. Funding support will be considered only after alternative delivery of goods have been arranged and contract insurance claims have been investigated.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT is prepared to consider, on a case by case basis, submissions for assistance where there was financial hardship incurred in the delivery of goods, essential to the community. This part is very important, all submissions for assistance should include an itemized cargo list, cost of alternate delivery, the results of efforts to recover money through shippers, or insurance policies and evidence of hardship. To date, Mr. Speaker, we have received one submission for financial assistance from Grise Fiord. The submission that was directed to MACA by

the senior administrative officer in Grise Fiord and concerns assistance with air freight costs and that is being reviewed as we speak. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 5-13(4): Grise Fiord Sealift Difficulties

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now I wonder if this level of assistance would be provided if other circumstances had arisen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 5-13(4): Grise Fiord Sealift Difficulties

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have the information that I have with me. If they would have used the

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government services then this would not have been an issue because the coast guard did get into Grise Fiord to re-supply that community. That is the only information I have. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 5-13(4): Grise Fiord Sealift Difficulties

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel that this government has determined to work more like a business than a government. Mr. Speaker, business exists to make a profit, as many of you are aware. Government exists to serve their people, as I am sure you all agree. I am sure that my constituents want the government to behave like a government that takes quick, efficient action, like any good business to assist its citizens when they are faced with an emergency.

Most of us come from small communities and have personal knowledge of emergencies and accidents.

Anyone helps quickly and without thought of getting the money up front. Can the Premier please explain what concrete financial assistance this government is prepared to offer the people of Grise Fiord to offset the increases in prices caused by this emergency? I know that the insurance is already covered, but the offset is over \$80,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 5-13(4): Grise Fiord Sealift Difficulties

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories is prepared to consider on a case-by-case basis submissions for assistance wherever there was financial hardship incurred in the delivery of goods essential to this community. We are fully prepared to do that, but as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, as every member of this Assembly knows, we are responsible to the public and to the public purse. We need certain things to justify paying out dollars or the Auditor General will let us know that we did not do business properly.

What we are asking the organizations in the Grise Fiord community to do, and the residents, is to itemize their cargo list, cost out alternate delivery, and make sure that the insurance policies and money issued to their shippers is taken care of, give us some evidence of hardship which should be no problem and submit that to the government and the government will assist whatever way they can. So, how much more clear can we make it, Mr. Speaker, but it takes two to solve this problem, the community and the government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 6-13(4): Proposed Changes To The NWT Mineral Royalties Regime

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I spoke about the increase in tax royalties for mining. I stated that this does not benefit the Northwest Territories, in my opinion, certainly not until we control northern resources. I feel that the proposed negatives certainly outweigh the positives. The three year royalty-free

period is eliminated. The royalty rate has increased from 12 percent to 14 percent.

This tax increase adds to the cost of mining in the north which is already tremendously high, and there is a complicated approval process and impact benefits to consider. I feel that the royalties need to be kept low to stimulate employment returns to the communities through impact benefit agreements.

There is an interdepartmental committee consisting of the Department of Indian Affairs, Finance Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and National Revenue, as well as, representatives from the Government of the Northwest Territories that has proposed these royalty changes.

I wonder if the Minister could tell me if the Government of the Northwest Territories supports these increases in the royalty rates and the elimination of the three year royalty-free period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 6-13(4): Proposed Changes To The NWT Mineral Royalties Regime

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development has taken responsibility to initiate some work to coordinate a more detailed response by this government to the proposed royalty rates that has come from the Department of Indian Affairs. There has been a letter sent by the Premier to the federal government that has initially raised some concerns. We have it, without indicating either support or opposition to it at this time.

As the members may know there have been some discussion papers and proposals made over the last year by the federal government to look at changes to the royalty rates in the north since they have not changed for decades. This is the first attempt that the federal government has made to making some proposed changes to the royalty rates. At this time we are coordinating with other government departments, the preparation of a more detailed response for consideration of Cabinet. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral Questions, Supplementary. Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 6-13(4): Proposed Changes To The NWT Mineral Royalties Regime

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if I could also be informed as to the time frame for some resolution to this proposal.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 6-13(4): Proposed Changes To The NWT Mineral Royalties Regime

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we should try to conclude our own review, and I find myself, as a minister, in a position to offer some more detailed comments to the federal minister in the next week, or so. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Supplementary. Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 6-13(4): Proposed Changes To The NWT Mineral Royalties Regime

MR. OOTES:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you. I wonder if the Minister could inform us whether this government is in agreement, or is not in agreement, with the increase in the tax royalty rate from 12% to 14%.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 6-13(4): Proposed Changes To The NWT Mineral Royalties Regime

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, there are, I think, a number of elements in the proposal that warrant some careful review. Commenting on the specific element without consideration of some of the other elements contained in the proposed changes would not be fair to the overall proposal itself. For instance, there are

indications of, perhaps, an elimination of the tax holiday that has been in place for some time. The proposal speaks to changing the rates to take advantage of the larger, more profitable, mining operations that are in existence now, or are coming into existence now, and making some attempt to marginalize any changes in the royalty rates to existing operations.

Having said that those are just some of the general comments that we have already passed on to the federal government and are unable, at this point, to comment further until our officials have provided us with some basis for further discussion and formulation for our position. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 6-13(4): Proposed Changes To The NWT Mineral Royalties Regime

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could update us with respect to this royalty regime. I could see the benefits of it to a small degree, if this territory was receiving the royalties, but since they are not I do not see the benefit of raising the royalties; however, can the minister apprise us as to the status of the Northern Accord negotiations, whether this is evolving for us? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 6-13(4): Proposed Changes To The NWT Mineral Royalties Regime

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the Premier is taking the lead on this initiative and is presently in consultation with different aboriginal groups. Having sent a letter out to them recently, to gauge their support and willingness to make that amount of support and the nature of the support, for pursuing the Northern Accord and devolution, in general, in the next few months, we are in a position to advance this initiative. In the next few months we anticipate a positive response from the aboriginal groups. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 7-13(4): Impact of Employee Layoffs on Future Nunavut Government

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in reference to my member's statement regarding Footprints 2 and the proposed decentralized government, we realize that negotiating an adequate level of funding to the gross expenditure base is critical. Mr. Speaker, there are also other major concerns. My question, to the Minister of Finance, is how will the present and future lay-offs of our Government of the Northwest Territories employees affect what positions will be available for transfer to Nunavut, upon division?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 7-13(4): Impact of Employee Layoffs on Future Nunavut Government

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am not quite sure what the question is but I will try to answer it. This government has got a deficit elimination strategy in place in which all members were part and parcel of. Unfortunately, part of that deficit elimination strategy is the amalgamation of departments, is the shrinking of government, and unfortunately there is going to be less employees. That strategy, as I said, is within to the first 12 months, we have 12 more months to conclude a balanced budget.

I am confident we are going to meet it. In doing that it may be that further cuts will be required in the civil service, but at this time I am unable to determine what is going to be cut and how they are going to move to Nunavut, given that we have only got the Footprints in the Snow report last week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 7-13(4): Impact of Employee Layoffs on Future Nunavut Government

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to further clarify my question, can the Minister advise if there will be any impact on the transfer of jobs to Nunavut once division occurs, due to the fact of the present and future, or pending, layoffs to our GNWT employees?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 7-13(4): Impact of Employee Layoffs on Future Nunavut Government

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do not like to give short answers, but I guess the short answer is no.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 7-13(4): Impact of Employee Layoffs on Future Nunavut Government

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is unfortunate that we have to accept these short curt answers of no. I will save my questions for another time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 8-13(4): Mandatory Leave At Christmas For Civil Servants

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to spend 3 weeks back in my

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home in Inuvik. During that time I have had concerns raised in the community brought forward to me in different meetings, whether it be in my office or taking part in other meetings.

Among many of them, one that comes forward, especially looking at the time of the year that is soon to be upon us, being Christmas, and that being a time when most people look forward to having some time to spend with family and friends. At this time there are members of the community that are feeling the pressure of what Christmas might bring.

Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister of Finance, and is to do with the five days mandatory leave without pay. Can the Minister tell me about the process that was used to develop these days known as Morin days?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 8-13(4): Mandatory Leave At Christmas For Civil Servants

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad the honourable colleague gave me the opportunity to try to clarify our position on this one because I know it is a difficult one for our employees.

It was proposed at the collective bargaining that employees be granted leave in compensation for wage and benefit reductions when we were doing the collective agreement. We informed the union on July 9, 1996, that the most common view held by managers was to consider the shut down of the operation over Christmas and New Year.

On July 15, 1996, a proposal was made to the UNW in writing, though it addresses its' concerns, as well as concerns raised by managers, to look for ways to minimize the impact of the mandatory leave without pay recovery on the employees pay over the Christmas and New Year shut down.

The union, unfortunately, as far as my records seem to indicate, did not respond. It was necessary for us to communicate with employees in the public concerns shutdown, and advise, particularly the organized labour employees what it meant to them, and we did so in a inserts we put in the pay cheques, I believe, 2 weeks ago.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 8-13(4): Mandatory Leave At Christmas For Civil Servants

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been notified in the community that there seems to be two different courses of action here - one being with excluded employees where over the year their pay has been adjusted to make it so that during this time off they would not be adversely affected. But I am also being told that UNW employees having the same days off are affected with actual days without pay on their pay cheques. Can the Minister inform me why is there two approaches? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 8-13(4): Mandatory Leave At Christmas For Civil Servants

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you. On the management side it was concurred in discussions and negotiations that we should proceed to deduct the percentage of pay off of each employee over a period of time to ensure that in these mandatory five Donny Days or Morin Days that the pay cheques would continue. We did correspond, my staff corresponded to Miss Jackie Simpson, President of the UNW, on July 15th and I am prepared to table that letter in the House today, indicating that as similar we indicated, what we were prepared to consider a similar approach with the Union employees. We indicated we would need to know very quickly if you are interested in this method for administration of mandatory leave as we require leave time to program the payroll system. Unfortunately, the Union disagreed with our position, therefore, the unionized employees will have five days less pay during the Christmas and New Year period. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions supplementary. Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 8-13(4): Mandatory Leave At Christmas For Civil Servants

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform me if he is aware why the Union did not accept the package as excluded employees did? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 8-13(4): Mandatory Leave At Christmas For Civil Servants

HON. JOHN TODD:

I was not at the negotiating table but all I can advise my honourable colleague is that I do have a letter here clearly stating out, in the third paragraph, of July 15th that we should talk about spreading the mandatory leave without pay more evenly over two pay periods and recommending that we administer a recovery portion over a period of time and asking them for their position on this. I can only assume that their position was to say no. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions supplementary. Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 8-13(4): Mandatory Leave At Christmas For Civil Servants

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform me that with the approach that was taken on behalf of the GNWT to try and implement the system that was done so with the excluded employees - was there a cost attached to this administration of the cheques? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 8-13(4): Mandatory Leave At Christmas For Civil Servants

HON. JOHN TODD:

I understand that the UNW have implied that there is in fact a .10 service charge. It was alleged, if that is the correct word, they seem to enjoy that word - alleged that out of the 1.92% deduction that we would take that there was a .10 service charge. This allegation is emphatically incorrect.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

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Question 9-13(4): Impact Of Royalties Increase On Land Claims

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to Mr. Kakfwi in regards to the oral question of royalties that was raised by Mr. Ootes. In regards to the increases, present arrangements which are in place in Land Claim Agreements, we do through Claims Agreements, receive royalties from mining development and the royalties that are arrived at by the federal government. I would like to question the Minister basically before any decision is made will he inform the aboriginal organizations who will receive this benefit that those increases will be a benefit to them, that nothing be done without that consultation.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Resource, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 9-13(4): Impact Of Royalties Increase On Land Claims

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct and speaks to the reason why I have said we want to take it cautious and measure the approach to developing a response. We do have responsibilities in the area of Claims for instance that need to be reviewed and carefully considered before responses are made by this government to federal initiatives. So, again I say that we will be taking a not so much cautious but rather a measured approach, a coordinated approach, to putting our facts and figures together across this government before any detailed response, comments, positions are advanced to the federal government in regard to these proposed changes in royalties. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions supplementary. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 9-13(4): Impact Of Royalties Increase On Land Claims

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary is, the Minister may be aware that the aboriginal organizations have been fully involved in the consultation with the federal government on these increases and do support them to date because it is a benefit to them, which is an advantage that they have in the Land Claim Settlements. I see a possibility that nothing be done until the federal government and the aboriginal groups have arrived at the final outcome on

exactly what those figures are because they have been in discussions with them. The Minister should make it's best efforts to ensure that those decisions be not broken between the federal government and the aboriginal organizations.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 9-13(4): Impact Of Royalties Increase On Land Claims

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker. Just a say again - yes we will make our best efforts in the next week or so to put together a well thought out, properly prepared, researched response to the different elements of the proposed changes to royalty rates that was the initiative of the federal government. Yes, we will consider every possible concern, interest and issue that arises as a result of this initiative being advanced by the federal government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 10-13(4): Cost Of Heating Oil And Gasoline In Snare Lakes

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for Petroleum Products Division. I understand Mr. Goo Arlooktoo is not here so I would like to redirect my question to the Honourable Premier Don Morin.

It has been brought to my attention that in the community of Snare Lakes, the retail prices for heating oil and gasolines are the highest prices in the western territory. To give you an example, the residents of Snare Lakes are paying 0.79 per litre for heating oil and 0.99 per litre for gasoline. This puts considerable strain on the residents as most pursue traditional lifestyles and need the use of their snowmobiles. This is also starting to cause problems for the elders, considering some have been able to move into a newer home for the use of the heating oil. My question to the Minister is could the Minister explain why Snare Lakes has such outrageous fuel prices and would he be prepared to find some solution to reduce these prices? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Again, just to remind the members that if a member is absent in the House that they not mention that the member is absent. I think the Premier has already indicated that the member is absent but members are not allowed to mention names of members that are not in the House. Mr. Premier.

HON. DON MORIN:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 11-13(4): Grounding Of Cruise Ship Near Gjoa Haven

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, over the summer, the past summer, the cruise ship, Hunseatic ran aground approximately 35 to 50 miles out of Gjoa Haven and it was stuck for about a week - remained aground for about a week. Even though my question may imply that we are entering into a jurisdiction of Fisheries Oceans Canada, but I think people of Gjoa Haven have the right to know what happened. Why the ship ran aground very close to Gjoa Haven. Was it a human error, a mechanical failure or was the channel not marked? That is my question for the Minister. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to find out this information so I will have to take this question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 12-13(4): Status Of Funding For Co-op Credit Unions

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MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Economic Development. Previously we had a commitment from this government to support the aspirations of many of our communities in the funding of cooperative credit unions. Can the minister update this House on the status of said funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 12-13(4): Status Of Funding For Co-op Credit Unions

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to that particular issue, as I understand it, there was a recent meeting of officials with the credit union and the offer of assistance by the department as was originally proposed with the time lines, is not, because of difficulties in securing additional funding which is a condition of our own, to be advanced. It is now expected that arctic cooperatives will shortly send us a letter that will indicate new time lines and an anticipated timing of implementation and dates when funding will be required. So, we are waiting for this new plan to be sent to us before we begin further discussions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 12-13(4): Status Of Funding For Co-op Credit Unions

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is indeed good news. I think the cooperatives will be interested in hearing that. My supplementary question to the minister. Will the commitment that was in place before be renewed at previous levels for the arctic cooperatives so that we can get these credit unions up and running? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 12-13(4): Status Of Funding For Co-op Credit Unions

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker. We did commit funding in the order of \$600,000 in the current year to assist in the formation of credit unions as proposed by the arctic cooperatives. It is true that we cannot continue to stand by this commitment forever. Something substantial should start happening the next while. It is a substantial sum of money to hold in anticipation of something that has yet to make any substantive progress.

So, as the minister I will stand by that commitment as long as I can, but I am unable during this time of fiscal restraint and cutbacks, to tell you exactly how long that would be. But, as I said, we hope that the Arctic Cooperatives will send us a letter very soon indicating what the new time lines and implementation plans are so that we can sit down with them and continue, hopefully, to work towards a resolution of this initiative. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 12-13(4): Status Of Funding For Co-op Credit Unions

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the present time one of the larger banks, the Bank of Montreal, in cooperation with Canada Post Corporation are setting up banking facilities on a trial basis in some northern communities. Right now there is one going on in Nain. Has the GNWT looked at some type of plan where we could foster an agreement between the cooperatives and the credit unions to arrange an arrangement with other entities of government that are involved in the same line as a credit union?

For example, maybe the BCC or the Development Corporation so that, maybe not the full amount of the \$600,000 could be used, but in cooperation by leveraging these other entities to help may be a way out of the fiscal situation and help them enhance and expediently move on the project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 12-13(4): Status Of Funding For Co-op Credit Unions

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker. To be very honest with you I find that I do not know where the preamble stopped and the question started. To be very honest I have no idea what the question is. I would have to ask for a very short summation of what the question is so I could try to answer it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 12-13(4): Status Of Funding For Co-op Credit Unions

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the House has just come back and I have not had much experience asking questions for about a month so I beg the minister to bear with me. My question was, will the minister look at other ways and other entities of this government in cooperation with the credit union idea? For example, taking the Business Credit Corporation or the NWT Development Corporation and maybe combining those types of area of interest with the credit union idea maybe to help expedite the process of getting these credit unions up and running. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 12-13(4): Status Of Funding For Co-op Credit Unions

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to take the question as raised by the member. I will take it into consideration, speak to my department about it and respond to the member, perhaps verbally, to save everybody a lot of time and work, about the merits of his suggestion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 13-13(4): GNWT Review Of Royal Commission Report

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. Earlier today I spoke about the report that was completed by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People and I indicated that the report says that because of the poor educational levels of the aboriginal people in Canada, there is

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lost productivity, lost income and lost potential taxes which bring the total cost to the economy of this unhealthy relationship with native peoples to \$7.5 billion a year. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if the Cabinet has had a chance to review the report yet?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ask the minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs to answer the question.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 13-13(4): GNWT Review Of Royal Commission Report

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Royal Commission Report on Aboriginal People has just recently come out and there are quite a few volumes that we have to go through. As a result of that, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is reviewing these documents, after this is done we will prepare a position for the Cabinet to review. So, at this point in time, we do not have a response or a review of the total package. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 13-13(4): GNWT Review Of Royal Commission Report

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department's officials must move fairly slowly. The honourable member for Yellowknife South says he has already read the whole report. I was wondering, once the staff has had a look at this and a position is presented to Cabinet, will this government take a position with the input of the ordinary members? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 13-13(4): GNWT Review Of Royal Commission Report

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Royal Commission on Aboriginal People report that came out, personally I think it is a very good report. It is long overdue. It covered a lot of the areas that are of great concern to all aboriginal people in Canada and, as a result of such an in-depth report, we would like to closely look at it. I think a lot of the different recommendations and issues that are addressed in the document itself, just looking at it preliminarily, are some of the things that we are endeavouring to do here in the Legislative Assembly, in terms of the Constitution, regarding division, regarding community empowerment, and self government and, especially, the inherent right to self government. And yes, we will have input from the ordinary members as we look at this document and put a proper type of response together on the position of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question Period is over. Written questions. Written questions. Petitions. Petitions. Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 8: PETITIONS

Petition 1-13(4): Fort Simpson Community Centre

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition here from Fort Simpson in regard to the community centre. It has 203 signatures from the citizens of Fort Simpson who say that the undersigned do petition this Legislative Assembly to permit the transfer of monies from the access road

project to the community centre. I would like to table this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 10: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following documents.

One, the Socio-Economic Agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and BHP Diamonds Incorporated, Tabled Document 1-13(4).

Second, the Implementation Protocol for the Environmental Impact Agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and BHP Diamonds Incorporated, Tabled Document 2-13(4).

Mr. Speaker, in addition I would like to table a letter written to myself as a member of the Legislative Assembly from the Town of Norman Wells in regard to the current discussions on A New Beginning: A Constitutional Package for Government of the New Western Territory, Tabled Document 3-13(4).

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Draft Constitutional Package recommended by the Constitutional Work Group of the Western Caucus in the Aboriginal Summit entitled: Partners in a New Beginning, Tabled Document 4-13(4).

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Tabling of documents. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the report of the Nunavut Implementation Commission, entitled: Footprints 2: A Second Comprehensive Report of the Nunavut

Implementation Commission, Tabled Document 5-13(4).

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a motion, numbered 195-96, of the Hamlet Council of Pangnirtung, Tabled Document 6-13(4), which directs that the Government of the Northwest Territories take the necessary steps to ensure that the Pangnirtung runway is relocated by the year 2002.

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Tabling of documents. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table, as I said earlier today, the July 15th letter to Ms. Jackie Simpson, President of the Union of Northern Workers, where we ask them for direction as it relates to the administration of salaries for mandatory leave. Tabled Document 7-13(4). Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of Documents. Tabling of documents. We will take a ten minute break.

--- Break

MR. SPEAKER:

Notices of motion.

ITEM 11: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Motion 1-13(4): Move Tabled Document 4-13(4) Into Committee Of The Whole

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, November 29, 1996, I will move the following motion. I move, second by the Honourable Member for High Arctic, that Tabled Document 4-13(4) entitled Partners in a

New Beginning be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today, I will be seeking unanimous consent to move this motion today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of Motion. Mr. Ningark.

Motion 2-13(4): Move Tabled Document 5-13(4) Into Committee Of The Whole

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, November 29, 1996, I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Thebacha, a Tabled Document 5-13(4) entitled Footprint 2 be moved into the Committee of the Whole for discussion. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today, I will be seeking unanimous consent to move this motion today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Notices of motion. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 1: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1996-97

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, November 29, 1996, I will move that Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1996/97, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

Bill 2: Justice Administration Statutes Amending Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Justice I would hereby give notice of the following. I give notice that on Friday, November 29, 1996, I will move that Bill 2, Justice Administration Statutes Amending Act be read for the first time.

Bill 3: Family Law Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

And if you will allow me Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, November 29, 1996 I will move Bill 3, The Family Law Act, be read for the first time.

Bill 4: Children's Law Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

Again, on Friday, November 29, 1996, I will move that Bill 4, Children's Law Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

Bill 5: Adoption Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Health and Social Services, I would like to give the following notice. I give notice that on Friday, November 29, 1996 I will move that Bill 5, Adoption Act, be read for the first time, by me Mr. Speaker.

Bill 6: Child and Family Services Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

I will also give notice that on Friday, November 29, 1996 I will move that Bill 6, Child and Family Service Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Ms. Thompson.

Bill 7: Municipal Statutes Amending Act

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, November 29, 1996, I will move that Bill 7, Municipal Statutes Amending, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Motions. Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 13: MOTIONS

Motion 1-13(4): Move TD 4-13(4) into Committee of the Whole

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to move my motion concerning moving Tabled Document 4-13(4) to Committee of the Whole.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The member for Nahendeh is seeking unanimous consent to move Tabled Document 4-13(4) into Committee of the Whole. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the Tabled Document 1-13(4) entitled Partners in a New Beginning be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Antoine your motion is in order. To the motion. Questions being called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried.

Motions. Mr. Ningark.

Motion 2-13(4): Move Tabled Document 5-13(4) Into Committee Of The Whole

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to move my motion concerning Tabled Document 5-13(4) to Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The member for Natilikmiot is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Ningark you have unanimous consent.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank, you Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Tabled Document 2-13(4) entitled Footprints 2 be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Questions being called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Item 13, Motions. Item 14, First Readings of Bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 14: FIRST READING OF BILLS

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to proceed with the first reading of Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1996/97.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Keewatin Central is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Bill 1. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Todd you have unanimous consent.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife, Frame Lake that Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1996/97 be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Questions being called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. First reading of bills. I am sorry - Bill 1 has had first reading. First reading of bills, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Minister of Justice I seek unanimous consent to proceed with the first reading of Bill 2, Justice Administration Statutes Amending Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Keewatin Central is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Bill 2. Do we

have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Todd you have unanimous consent.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife, Frame Lake that Bill 2, Justice Administration Statutes Amending Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Questions being called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 2 has had first reading. First reading of bills. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 15: SECOND READING OF BILLS

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, that Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1996/97 be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this Bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1997. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Your motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Questions being called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 1 has had second reading and accordingly stands in order to Committee of the Whole.

Second reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Again, thank you Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Minister of Justice I seek consent to proceed with the second reading of Bill 2, Justice Administration Statutes Amending Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Keewatin Central is seeking consent to deal with Bill 2. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Todd you have consent.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake that Bill 2, Justice Administration Statutes Amending Act, has been read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes minor amendments to four acts that relate to the administration of justice in the Northwest Territories. One, the Fine Option Act, a reference to a notice of fine form or fine card was replaced by fine order, which is the term used in the amendments to the Criminal Code that came into force on September 3, 1996. Two, Adjudicator Act. Provisions are added to empower judges of the Supreme Court to also act as judges of the Territorial Court and as Justice of the Peace and to permit the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal to convene meetings of the judges of that court to consider matters pertaining to the administration of justice. The Act was also amended to correct outdated references to the courts from which the judges of the Court of Appeal may be appointed to provide for the closure of the Office of the Clerk when the Clerk and other officers are on mandatory unpaid leave and to clarify an existing regulation making power permits the enactment of regulations respecting the reimbursement of expenses for interpreters and witnesses. Three, The Jury Act. A provision permitting the Sheriff to summon a potential juror by personal service or registered mail is expanded to permit a summons to be left with another member of that person's household or be sent by any class of mail. A person so served would not be guilty of failing to obey the summons unless he or she has acknowledged the summons. Several provisions are also amended to correct errors in the french version. And, four, Justice of the Peace Act, the composition of the Justices of the Peace Review Council is changed to delete the representative of the Minister of Justice and to provide for a second representative of the public to be appointed by the Commissioner in Executive Council.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. The motion is in order. To the principal of the bill. Questions being called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 2 has had second reading and accordingly stands in order to Standing Committee.

Second reading of bills. Mr. Clerk. Orders of the Day.

ITEM 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker. The meeting of the Nunavut and Western Caucus immediately after adjournment today. Meetings for tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. of the Ordinary Members Caucus and at 10:30 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Social Programs.

Orders of the Day for Thursday, November 28, 1996.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Return 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 in the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion 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
 - Ministers' Statement 1; Tabled Documents 4 and 5; and Bill 1
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, November 28th, 1996 at 1:30 p.m.

--- ADJOURNMENT