



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Good morning. Orders of the day. Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ministers have a number of important statements ready for delivery. I would like to request the indulgence of the House to seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 34(6), which specifies a 20 minute time limit for ministers' statements. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The ministers have not made their statements to suggest that they are going to be exceeding the 20 minutes. So, would you allow the process to proceed and if you require more time, request unanimous consent. Ministers' statements. Mr. Ng.

Minister's Statement 9-13(4): World AIDS Day

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sunday, December 1st is World Aids Day. An international event to expand and strengthen the world wide effort to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS. This year the theme is One World, One Hope. People from all countries hope for a cure, a vaccine, an end to discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS and an end to denial. As you are aware the Department of Health and Social Services recently released four documents which make up the HIV/AIDS framework for the Northwest Territories.

These resources are new tools that communities and governments can use to deal with HIV/AIDS as the development community wellness plans.

Communities, regions and organizations can use these documents to develop their strategies to focus on: stopping the spread of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases through education and prevention; providing information about HIV and sexually transmitted diseases, testing to those who want it and counselling and treatment services to northerners living with HIV and AIDS; and providing community-based care and support for HIV-infected people and their families, caregivers and friends.

As part of the implementation plan for the HIV/AIDS framework, next week the department, in partnership with Health Canada and the Canadian Association for Community Care, will hold a two-day train-the-trainer workshop for home care coordinators and home support workers. The workshop will enhance the skills of home care workers and prepare them for caring for HIV-infected northerners in their homes.

Mr. Speaker, we know some northerners take risks with their health. As individuals, families, communities and governments, we all have a role to play in solving the problems we face. We can share information, ideas and experiences to develop our plans to address community problems. We can help ourselves.

World AIDS Day gives us the chance to talk and learn about HIV infection and ways to prevent it, such as practising safer sex, show compassion and understanding for people living with HIV and AIDS, and remember those northerners who have already died from AIDS-related illnesses. Mr. Speaker, the red ribbon we wear is a symbol of our hope, our compassion and our support as we raise awareness about this devastating disease. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Ministers' statements. Mr. Ng.

Minister's Statement 10-13(4): Family Law Legislation

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been widely recognized for some time that the NWT legislation governing family law requires updating and reform. Family law and its renewal touches on the lives of everyone in the Northwest Territories.

For this reason, we involved and consulted with a broad spectrum of interest groups. We also spent considerable time researching customary family law as it applies to our northern aboriginal population. This process led to passing and implementing the Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act and resulting in the four bills I will introduce later today.

These bills I will introduce are the Child and Family Services Act, the Adoption Act, the Children's Law Act, and the Family Law Act.

The Child and Family Services Act provides a northern solution that allows communities to become responsible for child welfare issues at the local level. It builds on the desire to promote healthy communities that deal with child welfare matters according to community standards. Many aboriginal children were adopted under previous legislation and this made access to their records difficult. They are now seeking information about their birth parents and extended family. The Adoption Act proposes a more open process to facilitate searches and reunions when adopted children become adults.

The issues covered in the proposed Children's Law Act include the legal status of children, the establishment of parentage, custody of and access to children, guardianship of the estates of children, and child support. When parliament amends the Divorce Act to provide guidelines for child

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support, I will begin the process to change our legislation to harmonize the two schemes.

The main issues covered in the proposed Family Law Act are domestic contracts, spousal support, division of family property, and possession of the family home.

The proposed Children's Law Act and Family Law Act will modernize family legislation in the Northwest Territories and replace the following existing legislation: the Domestic Relations Act, Maintenance Act, Minors Act, Matrimonial Property Act, Extra-Territorial Custody Orders Enforcement Act, and parts of the Child Welfare Act dealing with the status of children and paternity.

In future, other legislation that relates to family law issues will be amended accordingly. Mr. Speaker, this is a comprehensive package of family law legislation. I look forward to these bills going before the Standing Committee on Social Programs and I am confident

that this process will generate useful public consultation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 11-13(4): Mandatory Days of Leave

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently amended terms and conditions of employment require the government to shut down its operations over the Christmas period in order to provide a block of five mandatory days of leave without pay for employees in non-continuous operations. I am announcing today that most government operations and services will be shut down from December 23, 1996 through January 1, 1997.

Employees have received payroll stuffers and electronic mail messages informing them of the mandatory days off, as well as, the effect this will have on their pay cheques.

Specific departments that will be shut down over the Christmas period are Northwest Territories Housing Corporation; Education, Culture and Employment; Finance; Safety and Public Services; Legislative Assembly; RWED; and Executive.

Offices in the Departments of Transportation; Justice; MACA; Public Works and Services; and, Health and Social Services will be closed but certain facilities and services will continue to function.

For instance, motor vehicle offices in Yellowknife and Iqaluit will be closed but their contract offices in other communities will remain open. Airport, highway and ferry services will also remain available. Correctional facilities and services will operate over Christmas. Public Works and Services will continue to provide building security and maintenance for government buildings.

As well, the Emergency Measures Organization, Fire Marshall and office of Municipal and Community Affairs will maintain their emergency phone numbers during the shutdown period. Health centres will remain open and health and social services will be advising clients and residents of the levels of service available in each community.

The government will be informing the public and clients of the shutdown period and the services available over that period through means such as posters, announcements, correspondence or advertisements in all communities. In addition, the Office of the Press Secretary will be issuing a news release advising of the Christmas shutdown period. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 12-13(4): Launch of Income Support Program

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Over the past several years, northerners have expressed concerns about the effectiveness of the social assistance program. In 1993, the Special Committee on Health and Social Services recommended that the program should do more to encourage pride, a desire to work, and a sense of initiative. The Minister's Forum on Income Support Reform received a similar message in 1995. After consulting with northerners, the forum recommended the program be linked to jobs and training in the wage and traditional economies, encourage people to make responsible choices and make the best possible use of the money available. I am pleased to announce that a new income support program which follows these principles will be launched in January of 1997. Income support will be largely a transitional program designed to assist people who need help while they develop new skills to become more independent.

Community based workers will help those receiving income support develop careers plans and identify productive choices such as hunting, education, training and community service work. Elders and those who are unable to work will receive additional support. Changed administration of the program also means that those involved in productive choices may no longer have to visit the income support worker once a month to receive their cheques.

We feel that income support can be best delivered by the local community. Local control and delivery would allow each community to set their own definitions of productive choices. This means the program will meet local priorities and use available resources in the best way possible to help people in need. Staff are prepared to work with interested communities on plans for training and transfer of responsibility as

communities are ready. We hope to see transfers starting in the next few months.

The new income support program will provide basic benefits for people in transition who need financial help for a short time. Extended benefits will be available to people who need help over a longer period, if they are involved in activities that contribute to their personal or community growth. For example, productive choices may include training, academic upgrading or participation in healing programs. The individual and the income support worker will work together to develop an individual plan and then choose a productive activity that will help that person progress towards future goals. The new income support program will bring together community resources to help people in need. By linking benefits to productive choices, it will help people develop the skills they need to become more independent.

The new program should be an important step in helping individuals and communities reach their goals. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 13-13(4): Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples released its report on Thursday, November 21, 1996. The report is contained in six volumes and runs to almost 4000 pages. We should take pride in the fact that Mr. George Erasmus, a prominent Dene leader most of us have had the honour of working with over the years, co-chaired the Royal Commission. On behalf of the GNWT, I would like to congratulate him for his hard work over the past five years in producing this watershed report.

The report contains a chapter on the north which will be of particular interest to people in the Northwest Territories. The Royal Commission's findings draw a strong connection between the northern economy, education and training and institutional development in the north. These are connections we are familiar with in processes such as division, western

constitutional development and aboriginal self-government.

The recommendations in the report are aimed at creating a new relationship between Canadians and Aboriginal Peoples. I will not try to summarize their recommendations, Mr. Speaker. The Royal Commission itself produced a summary which is 100 pages long.

Mr. Speaker, governments and Canadians have not had a chance to properly digest a report of this magnitude in the week or so since it was released. The Government of the Northwest Territories is now engaged in reviewing the report and considering the numerous and wide-ranging recommendations.

I want to stress that the Royal Commission report touches on all aspects of government operations and will engage the attention of all departments and agencies, not just the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. We will need to take a coordinated approach within the Government of the Northwest Territories to review this important report so that, early in the new year, we will be in a position to respond to these Royal Commission recommendations that are relevant to the Northwest Territories.

One of the primary objectives of the Commissioners was to ensure that the report not disappear from view a few weeks or months after it was released. However, some people in the media have already suggested that the report will be shelved with most of the recommendations never implemented.

We must be prepared to immediately encourage a follow-up process with federal/provincial/territorial and Aboriginal governments so that the massive achievement of the Royal Commission is not ignored or wasted.

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 14-13(3): Cuts to CBC Northern Services

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is once again facing cutbacks throughout the country. CBC Northern

Service Radio is slated for a cut of 28 percent by April 1st of next year, while Northern Service Television will be cut by 39 percent by April 1st, 1998.

It appears that the CBC is making decisions at the national level which show little regard for the realities of regions like the north. Regional programming, which attracts a limited audience in southern markets like Vancouver or Edmonton -- where commercial stations are also available -- are being considered in the same manner as regional programming in the North, where there are few commercial alternatives

Across-the-board cuts have a higher impact here in the north than any other region of Canada. It is simply not economical for private broadcasters to serve the diversity of people and cover the vast distances between communities in the north. CBC not only provides service to residents in almost every community, it also provides service in a variety of languages across four time zones.

I have already expressed this government's opposition to any substantial cuts to CBC Northern Service through letters sent to CBC Northern Service through letters sent to CBC chairman Perrin Beatty, Honourable Sheila Copps, Federal Minister of Canadian Heritage and the NWT's two Members of Parliament. I have also met with Minister Copps to discuss this government's concerns about the impact of the budget cuts.

My colleagues, the Honourable Manitok Thompson, Iqaluit MLA Edward Picco and Nunatsiaq MP Jack Anawak, recently met with Mr. Beatty to reinforce this message and to further explain the CBC's important role in providing broadcast services in aboriginal languages.

The cuts to CBC Northern Service are particularly significant in light of recent cuts to aboriginal broadcasters, including the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, Native Communications Society and the Inuvialuit Communications Society. The federal government is cutting its support to these broadcasters by almost 15 percent in the current fiscal year and another three percent next fiscal year.

The Northwest Territories is quickly approaching an important point in its history. Division will raise many issues. Northerners must be fully informed so we can make the political decisions needed to carry us into the future. An easily accessible source of information, provided in the languages of the NWT, is more important than ever. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On The Need To Work Cooperatively With Unions To Address Our Fiscal Concerns

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we talked about and debated the direct link between education and job opportunities. However, the net result of discussions was that we had to do more. Government cannot create all the employment opportunities but it can provide the stimulus for

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economic growth by the usage of tax credits, providing cost-effective re-training for the new reality of the 90s and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, it is easy for us to sit here and pontificate but we all know it is harder to actually make change. We need a process to discuss possible alternatives to downsizing. I know that we will be meeting as a Nunavut Caucus to talk about job-sharing, flexible hours of work et cetera in Iqaluit in the coming months, but we have to do something now that will carry on in the whole Northwest Territories before and during the run up to 1999. Mr. Speaker, this is not a grand standing ploy but an honest attempt to seek other solutions to impending job losses and hopefully find a workable solution.

As the MLA representing the largest community and the largest public service outside Yellowknife, I make this offer sincerely and with expediency. I do not want to see my family, friends, neighbours and constituents laid off. There will have to be lay-offs but these could be minimized with discussions, as I have outlined, with our NWTTA and UNW partners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Absence From The House

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translator) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the members that I will be absent from this House this weekend and I will be back on Tuesday. I will be attending the meeting of Nunasi Corporation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Enuaraq.

Member's Statement On The Need For A New Wharf In Clyde River

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translator) Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning to my colleagues. Today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about a wharf in Clyde River. In the past years, we have lost our two large boats and also we have lost more than our boats, because we do not have a proper wharf. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation about this. This question will be directed to the Minister of Transportation, if that is correct? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement On Airport Construction Study Commissioned By The Hamlet Of Rae-Edzo

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my reply to the Opening Address, after nearly 25 years of lobbying this government, the Hamlet of Rae-Edzo has taken it upon itself to investigate ways of constructing an airport for the community of Rae-Edzo. To date the Hamlet has contracted a specialist to develop a geotech study to review alternative sites as well as to develop a socio-economic study to determine the benefits that could be achieved with an airport in the community.

To me, these are positive moves that will hopefully provide us with a badly needed facility. For years, this government has taken the position that Rae-Edzo does not need an airport because of the highway linkage. However, this does not really hold water as, traditionally, Rae-Edzo has been, and still is, the hub of the region for considerable trade taking place between all communities within the region. The Hamlet is now in the process of finding partners that understand our position or are willing to work with us to provide this very important life-line. I hope this

government will find a way that they can assist the community with this worthwhile venture.

I would also like to say that, again, after many years of discussions between this government and the community of Rae-Edzo, I believe we are finally coming to agreement over the issue of an inadequate water and sewage system. I was, to say the least, sympathetic to my colleague's demonstration yesterday regarding the problems the city and he are having with the water and sewage system. It is important to realize that some of our infrastructures are aging and need repair and it should not be the community's full responsibility to repair our system. I would like to believe that the Department of MACA will be prepared to take some responsibility. I just hope the talks with the community will continue and we will have some solution to this problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On The Need To Explore Alternatives To Civil Service Lay-offs

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on comments made today by my honourable colleague, Mr. Picco, MLA for Iqaluit. Mr. Picco spoke about lay-offs in the civil service, an issue that is close to many people in my riding. Many of my constituents are government employees who fear they will lose their jobs to cut-backs or division. Others are business owners who fear the local economy will shrink for the same reasons.

Mr. Speaker, we must wrestle with the territorial debt. The civil service cannot expect to escape this process and jobs will be cut. However, I think Mr. Picco raised an excellent point when he asked whether we were doing enough to offer alternatives to lay-offs. For example, the Nunavut Implementation Commission's second report, Footprints 2 contains recommendations for sharing the benefits of a few jobs as

widely as possible. Footprints 2 talks about strategies like job-sharing and flex time. I agree with Mr. Picco when he says we need to explore options when dealing with cuts to the civil service.

Mr. Speaker, government employees have few reasons today to feel optimistic, especially these days. That lack of optimism affects the efficiency and operation of this

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government and, as a result, all people throughout the Northwest Territories. We are the architects of fiscal restraint policies but we are not its immediate targets and we have a responsibility to investigate alternatives to lay-offs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Concerns Regarding The Western Constitutional Proposal

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This current government is being faced with many difficult decisions which will impact the people of the Northwest Territories for years to come. We are having to deal with such important issues as division, a new constitution, large-scale development and, less we forget, our deficit which is having a negative impact on many, many lives.

Mr. Speaker, the timing for us could not be worse. The task seems insurmountable. We are forced to resolve these issues for our residents and hopefully make the Northwest Territories a better place for all peoples. I am beginning to feel a sense of great distaste for some decisions that are being made. In a time when we should be unifying our people, we seem to be doing the opposite. We are degrading and dividing the people we are supposed to be representing.

This government has chosen to adopt a very paternalistic approach to aboriginal people which will only divide aboriginal and non-aboriginal. I draw attention to the socio-economic agreement this government has signed with BHP and the draft constitution as two examples of this approach. The socio-economic agreement contains clauses which require the company to hire certain percentages of aboriginals and northerners.

While I agree with the requirements to having a strong northern workforce, I have a question, Mr. Speaker -- what business is it of this government to require private companies to follow any form of affirmative action policy? Requirements such as this cannot help but degrade aboriginal people. We have aboriginal people who are more than capable of getting jobs on an equal footing to their fellow northerners. We have to stop telling aboriginal people by such statements, that they are not good enough. Is this what we are telling them when we protect jobs for them? You are not good enough to compete?

This can only cause racial disharmony and prejudice between the very people we are supposed to represent as a government. We have to have harmony among our people and we must do all we can to ensure that harmony in the future. We cannot afford to be prejudiced any longer and risk losing what we have gained.

The draft constitution has also raised feelings amongst our citizens of racial division. As a government, we cannot afford to sit back and allow our people to be divided along these lines. If we do, as a government, we will lose one of our responsibilities. One message that is coming back loud and clear is that this draft constitution does not give the people of the Northwest Territories an equal say. We are a government which is supposed to represent all its peoples. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The member for Yellowknife South is seeking the unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are a government which is supposed to represent all its people and I say that the time has now come that we stand up and be a government for all. We have no business dictating government policies in the public sector any more than we have business endorsing a constitution which will forever divide people in the Northwest Territories. This, Mr. Speaker, is totally irresponsible of the government and I urge my fellow members to endorse only that which will provide equality for every citizen. We cannot afford racism to become another issue and, if we do, it will be far beyond any solution this government can find. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Recommendations Made By Royal Commission

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples was released. It took five years to produce. The prime minister Brian Mulroney commissioned a \$58 million enquiry after the 1990 Oka crisis in Quebec. The 4000 page document offers a 20 year plan and 440 recommendations to improve aboriginal lives in Canada. Already the federal government gave an appropriate response last Thursday to the report. Officials have given the five volume report and warned -- by native leaders across Canada who feel the report was quickly shelved and seriously doubted that any of the recommendations will ever be implemented.

The report confirms what every native person already knows all too well, that the majority of aboriginal people in Canada are at a clear disadvantage to the average Canadian. Here in the Northwest Territories, correction centres report, in March 1996, a 90 percent native admittance in the rate of sentenced crimes. The cost of taxpayers to keep one inmate locked up is approximately \$80,000 a year. Health and social services clearly states that it is looking at developing new approaches to alcohol and drug program and intense community control, independency, and self reliance. The Gwich'in Nation has recently developed a new approach to alcohol and drug programming through the development of the Tl'oondih Healing camp outside Fort McPherson. This is the first healing camp ever designed and delivered especially by native groups in Canada. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Krutko, you have unanimous consent.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Kelvin Ng, Minister of Health and Social Services has stated that his department will not give core funding to the Tl'oondih

Healing Society but, ironically, funds other similar programs up to \$1 million a year. Furthermore, future funding for other facilities in Mackenzie Delta such as the Knute Lang Learning and Development Correction Centre that was promised to Aklavik and other similar communities were recently cancelled. This

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again, sheds some light on the government's commitment to First Nation's government in recognition of trying to resolve aboriginal problems between especially in relations to corrections and alcohol and drugs. The annual loss to the economy will be 11 billion dollars by the year 2000. 16 at the current trend of overlooking depreciated social conditions of First Nations people in Canada. We will have to let the politicians, Government of Canada, other political organizations to realize this problem has to be resolved today. For what we do today will save money in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Journey Towards Division

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are faced with two difficult jobs which must be done at the same time and that must not be allowed to destroy each other. We are on a direct and rapidly moving journey to the division of the Northwest Territories into two territories. We are also, by our own legislation, bound to reduce this government's deficit so that these two territories will start with a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, either of these two jobs are very large and difficult to accomplish alone, to deal with both at the same time is more than doubly so. It is easy to believe that dividing something is to break it, to damage it and to make something worse. Our job, Mr. Speaker, is to show the people that we are creating new things that are, at least, as valuable as the ones they replace. We need to the wisdom of Solomon, who make experience in deciding about the division of assets, and we need the patience, the determination and open honesty to our aboriginal brothers if we are to complete both of these jobs successfully. I welcome the Premier's recognition of division as the number one priority for this government. We must ensure that the division process does not become a

poor relative of the budget reduction process. We must make sure that the cutting of the budget is an open and fair process, clearly understood and accepted by the people of the Northwest Territories.

I see that we are counting the days of the division publicly. In the great hall outside of this chamber, this week, marks the beginning of the final journey to the destination. We are in a unique situation of being passengers and pilots at the same time. I would like to wish us all a safe and satisfying trip. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Holiday Greetings

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have many weighty issues before us as we have heard demonstrated in the last few days in the house. Concerns raised, issues with division and the budget. This is a short sitting so I would just like to take my few minutes today to maybe to take our mind off that issue, just for a minute. The Yuletide season is upon us and we are going to be leaving here soon. This may be our last day in sitting before the Christmas and New Year. So, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the people of the Northwest Territories, my constituents and my family and of course, my colleagues and the staff a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year and my hope for the New Year is that we can continue to move forward to deal with some of these many issues in a cooperative way to get us to 1999, united and with a decent budget but that we will have to continue to work together. So I would like to wish you all the very best. Thank you, very much.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Concerns Regarding The Implementation Of Community Empowerment

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I start off by sending greetings back home to my family. Mr. Speaker, I

have mentioned at times in this House about the way we do business as a government and I ask myself, and in these areas, what is empowerment when it comes to the way we do business? Are we truly empowering the people of our communities, how they do their work? Are we empowering the paraments within our communities away from headquarters to be able to get the job done efficiently and effectively?

Recently, I have heard concerns being raised in our community, since we started travelling down this course of budget reductions and a community empowerment. Some departments within the community are saying that Yellowknife is actually taking back, not speaking of the city, but headquarters is taking back, some of the controls. I have some concern with that when we talk about empowering our communities, about letting the people make the decisions in our communities. We say on one hand but on the other we make sure the knot is good and tight and we, as politicians here, are seeming to be the ones that lead the charge, we are the ones pushing for the change that is happening or the change that is not happening.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that we, as politicians, have to rise to the occasion and let people know that, yes, we are going to make some change and sometimes it takes a little while to get that change happening in the way we would like to see it happen but I think we, as politicians, need to start telling our staff, our hierarchy, especially in headquarters that community empowerment means just that. Communities, people in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Members' statements. Members' statements - returns to oral questions. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 10-13(4): Cost of Heating Oil and Gasoline In Snare Lakes

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return, asked by Mr. Rabesca on November 27, Snare Lake fuel costs. The cost of fuel is particularly high in Snare Lake because of the cost of the winter resupply. The winter road to Snare Lake is connected to the government's winter road system by 100 kilometre trail that is built by the private sector. The cost of transporting goods

on this stretch road is added to the cost of all materials brought in over the trail. This means the costs of all goods in Snare Lakes, including petroleum products, was higher than the surrounding communities. Fuel

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prices in the communities supplied by the government are subsidized in the amount of approximately 6.7 million. However, I agree there is a need to rationalize the price structure to eliminate some of the inconsistency in fuel prices between the communities. Mr. Arlooktoo has agreed to review the price structure in the spring of 1997 in conjunction with the privatization initiative, to see if there is a way to lessen the burden on the communities, such as Snare Lakes. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Returns to oral questions, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 11-13(4): Grounding of Cruise Ship Near Gjoa Haven

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. On Wednesday, November 27, 1996, the member for Natilikmiot asked me about the grounding, this summer, of the M.V. Hanseatic in the Simpson strait off King William island and Gjoa Haven. The member was correct that the jurisdiction over marine affairs belongs entirely to the federal government and does not involve the territorial Department of Transportation. Regardless of the legal jurisdiction, the incident took place in northern waters and northerners have every interest in knowing what happened. The Hanseatic went aground on the Simpson strait on August 29th and was caught there until the Canadian coast guard pulled her off on September 5th. Fortunately no serious consequences came of the grounding. No passengers or crew were injured and there was no loss of fuel or any other type of contaminants. It is still too soon to answer the member's question on the cause of the accident.

There are no fewer than four investigations in progress today. Transport Canada is investigating to determine, first of all, whether the accident involved any regulatory violations or infractions, and secondly, if there were any violations, whether prosecution is warranted. Transport Canada should finish this investigation early in the new year. The Canadian Transport Accidents Investigation Safety Board is

examining the accident to identify the conditions and circumstances that led to it. Due to the nature of its investigation, the Transportation Safety Board typically does not come out with its final report and recommendations until a year or more after the event. The Hanseatic is registered in the Bahamas and therefore the Commonwealth of Bahamas is conducting its own investigation into the incident. The Federal Republic of Germany is also investigating the incident because the Hanseatic is owned by a German company and officers in charge of the ship, as well as, most of the passengers were German. I do not know when the findings from these investigations will be available, Mr. Speaker.

We will probably find the report from the Transportation Safety Board the most informative and we will simply have to wait for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Returns to oral questions, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 24-13(4): Approval of 1997-98 Main Estimates

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a further return to Question 24-13(4) asked by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South. I can inform the Members of this House that no lay-offs related to the 1997-98 budget will occur until after the main estimates are approved by this Assembly, this winter. It is important to note, however, that some employees may receive notice of lay-off prior to the approval of the budget. The provisions of the collective agreement entitle employees to a 90 day lay-off notice and these notices will have to be sent out over the next several months to ensure that all aspects of the budget can be implemented on April 1, 1997.

Final decision to implement specific measures are, of course, dependent on the decision of the Assembly with respect to the 1997-98 main estimates that will be considered during the winter session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Todd.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the comments made by my colleague earlier today, and the need to extend an olive branch to my colleagues in the union organization, I would like to recognize Ms. Pat Thomas, President of the NWTTA and Ms. Jackie Simpson who is the President of the UNW. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translator) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my spouse and a resident of our community who is here to attend a meeting with the Aboriginal Headstart Program for Nunavut. I would like to recognize the two ladies up in the gallery. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a former co-worker of mine and a northern journalist who has just returned to Yellowknife after a two-year working stint in Rankin Inlet and I would like you to welcome and greet Marty Brown.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Oral questions, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 30-13(4): Issues Raised By The Royal Commission Report

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal

Peoples report was released by the government. Already there is strong input and support from First Nations people that the government make a stand on this issue. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples provides that aboriginal people in Canada are clearly disadvantaged compared with the average Canadian socially and economically. What is the Premier

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going to do to change the status quo for aboriginals in the NWT and also, not using the excuse, there is no money?

The Ti'oondih Healing camp is the first aboriginal funded running healing program in Canada that addresses the special needs of families of first nation people. As I stated, the minister of social services stated that he cannot give any core funding to this project in light of the fact that the department has already, and continues to, fund similar facilities in the Northwest Territories. The question is to the Premier, what is he going to do in regards to the Royal Commission Report and also how is he going to deal with these issues?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Premier that was two questions.

Return To Question 30-13(4): Issues Raised By The Royal Commission Report

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as an official government response to the Royal Commission Report on Aboriginal Peoples, Mr. Antoine is coordinating a response for Cabinet to consider and hopefully we will be able to consider that in the very near future. As far the Ti'oondih Healing centre issue, that is a health issue which Mr. Ng is working on. Myself, Mr. Todd and Mr. Ng have met with Mr. Krutko and representatives of the healing camp in his area. My understanding is that they are working on that issue with the people from that area right now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 30-13(4): Issues Raised By The Royal Commission Report

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the other point about the whole question of disparity that has been noted in the report on aboriginal people in Canada and the Northwest Territories in regards to the social and economic conditions that they are under to bring them up to par with other Canadians and also finding funding to ensure that. What is the Premier going to do in regards to the funding side of it?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question:30-13(4): Issues Raised By The Royal Commission Report

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, Mr. Speaker, the questions on the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Report and, as I said previously, the government, through Mr. Antoine, who is responsible for aboriginal affairs, is coordinating a response for Cabinet from all the departments to see how we can respond to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Report. So, we are working on that and I do not have answers of detailed dollars it would cost or anything for the member today.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 30-13(4): Issues Raised By The Royal Commission Report

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A final supplementary. What is the Premier going to do to convince the Government of Canada that there is a need for more funding with regards to the investment for aboriginal people, especially in regards to social programming in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Further Return To Question 30-13(4): Issues Raised By The Royal Commission Report

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I previously said, we, as a government, are coordinating a response to this report. Once Mr. Antoine has finished coordinating that response and brought it to Cabinet then we will develop a strategy on how we will approach the federal government, as well as, other jurisdictions in this country. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ootes.

Question 31-13(4): Tabling Discussion Paper On Departmental Amalgamations

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Premier. Can the Premier tell us if he will table today the discussion paper on the proposal for amalgamation of the departments of Public Works, Housing and Transportation?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 31-13(4): 31-13(4): Tabling Discussion Paper On Departmental Amalgamations

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As members are fully aware, we agreed on a process to follow on decisions and directions that this government would be taking, along with members and having open dialogue with members of the Legislative Assembly. We agreed on this process last fall. We as a government are very committed to the process. Cabinet has approved a work plan for amalgamation of those three departments. I have sent that work plan to the Government Operations Committee. Government Operations will, I am sure, have a lot of good suggestions and advice on the amalgamation of those three departments to Cabinet, as well as, other people in the Northwest Territories.

So, once my minister responsible for that amalgamation, Mr. Goo Arlooktoo meets with Governments Ops, we also fully plan on sharing the amalgamation paper with all the stakeholders in the Northwest Territories. That would be municipalities, communities, unions and every other stakeholder that is interested. I am sure that we will get good advice back from those people. Then we will be tabling it in the House in January as we have already committed

to do and then look forward to open debate and more advice, again, from members, from the House and then we will continue to proceed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 31-13(4): Tabling Discussion Paper On Departmental Amalgamations

MR. OOTES:

I wonder if the Premier would take under advisement that we did discuss this as members and we would like to have the document tabled into the House today. I wonder if the Premier will do that.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 31-13(4): Tabling Discussion Paper On Departmental Amalgamations

HON. DON MORIN:

I thank the member for asking me to take that under advisement. I will take that under advisement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral question supplement, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 31-13(4): Tabling Discussion Paper On Departmental Amalgamations

MR. OOTES:

I am frustrated with the Premier's answer on that. I do not know why he needs to take it under advice. The question is, will he table it in the House today, Mr. Speaker? I would like to have it tabled in the House today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 31-13(4): Tabling Discussion Paper On Departmental Amalgamations

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the member if I frustrate him. But if you ask clearer questions, then you get clearer answers. I advise the member to do that in the future. I would not want to supersede or go against what all the members of this Legislative Assembly agreed to, a process. I am fully committed to the process and, as I said earlier, we do have a work plan now of how to carry amalgamation. That has been approved by Cabinet. I have sent it to Government Ops and Government Ops will make recommendations to the government, as well as, all the stakeholders will get it and they will make recommendations as well and it will also be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in January. I will make sure that all members of the Legislative Assembly get a copy as well. Then they can raise concerns or give us advice to assist in the amalgamation of these three departments. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral question, final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 31-13(4): Tabling Discussion Paper On Departmental Amalgamations

MR. OOTES:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. From the information we have been provided with, we have been told that Public Works expects to have most of the reductions made before January 1st, 1997. So, it is rather fruitless to discuss this in January, February. Hence the reason for the need to table this document today, so that we can discuss it in public before all the members. It was decided today, by members of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, that we wish to have this document tabled today. I am asking the Premier, again, if he will reconsider tabling this document today.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear! Hear!

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 31-13(4): Tabling Discussion Paper On Departmental Amalgamations

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is news to me that Public Works would have all this work done by January 1st, 1997. I do not think so. Let me state once again, Mr. Speaker, that we have worked on the work plan. We have talked to members about that already and that is a plan of how you can amalgamate. That does not mean the details are thrashed out. Cabinet has approved that. We have sent it to Government Operations, and we are looking forward to the Government Operations making recommendations, and the minister will meet with Government Operations. We are committed to consultation with the stake-holders. We will then table that document in the House in January, we will move on to get the job done with all that good advice and recommendations everybody has. That is the process that all members of this Legislative Assembly agreed to, I am not going to stand here and say that I am going to pre-empt that process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Question 32-13(4): Wildlife Officer In Hall Beach

MR. EVALOARJUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Renewable Resources. We know that we are representing our constituents, and when we speak for the constituents, we do not like to answer "no". They would like to get a wildlife officer in their community. The wildlife officer for Igloolik is responsible for Hall Beach, but it takes a long time for this person to go to Hall Beach. They were wondering if they would be able to get a wildlife officer for Hall Beach?

MR. SPEAKER:

The minister responsible for Resource, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 32-13(4): Wildlife Officer In Hall Beach

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the department has tried through the exercise of amalgamation, to lead the present contingent of economic development officers, renewable resource officers, that are presently allocated to communities, to have those unaffected. It is not possible to say that we will increase the numbers that we have. It is possible to look at

possible re-deployments or to transfer positions where they are available, and where they are currently existing - to have these transferred to communities as part of transfer agreements, as part of block funding, so in that context I am prepared to look at the request by the community as stated by the member, and see what we can do within that context. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Picco.

Question 33-13(4): Alternatives To Public Service Job Losses

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement, I asked about the job-sharing and flexible hours of work et cetera to help minimize the job losses that we foresee coming up in the new realm of 98 million dollars, Mr. Todd talked about yesterday, being slashed.

My question is for the Premier, who has the responsibility for personnel. Has the Premier looked at these alternate solutions to job losses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 33-13(4): Alternatives To Public Service Job Losses

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that in the very near future, there is going to be a major conference going on in the member's riding on this whole issue. We are very committed to this conference, as a matter of fact, it is in the tune of 100,000 dollars we have committed.

I listened with great interest to the member's statement, I believe that Mr. Todd will have to take those issues up with the union and our employees. They may be acceptable to them, then again they may not, I do not know that. But it is something worth exploring. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 33-13(4): Alternatives To Public Service Job Losses

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my member's statement, that conference has been initiated by NIC and it's main focus will be on the workplace that we will find ourselves in after the vision in 1999. Thus my earlier question, if the Premier was looking at this, so I guess, he is not. So my supplementary question then, to the Premier is, when will he be looking at it for the GNWT of 1996-97-98 and the first 3 months of 1999? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 33-13(4): Alternatives To Public Service Job Losses

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding from information that I got from my colleague in charge of FMBS that we have been looking into this, and that is one of the main reasons that we contributed so heavily in the \$100,000 range, to this conference. I know the conference is sponsored by NTI, and I know also that it is for the Nunavut government, what they were looking at for the Nunavut government after April 1, 1999. But recommendations are recommendations, maybe we can adapt some of those recommendations and use them before then, in this case. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 33-13(4): Alternatives To Public Service Job Losses

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not trying to be adversarial to the Premier, and in my member's statement I tried to say that I was asking in sincerity. If FMBS is looking at it and he just found out it is, is it possible then, to get a copy of the working document that FMBS must be working from? Or, as the Premier is the minister responsible for personnel, I find it very

surprising that he is not aware of any kind of discussion. So, maybe, my supplementary question to the Premier is, when will he make available the working document that this government is preparing to use next month in Iqaluit for the NIC conference?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Picco, I must rule your question out of order. Perhaps you might want to rephrase your question as to whether there is such a document, but you cannot ask for a Cabinet document.

Supplementary To Question 33-13(4): Alternatives To Public Service Job Losses

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there a such a document, does he have said document?

MR. SPEAKER:

You are welcome, Mr. Morin, but, I did not hear a response.

Further Return To Question 33-13(4): Alternatives To Public Service Job Losses

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 33-13(4): Alternatives To Public Service Job Losses

MR. PICCO:

Well, it took three questions to get that out, maybe then, my final supplementary question to the

Premier would be, when will he begin discussions with our partners, the organized labour, the UNW and the NWTTA to talk about flexible job hours, job sharing, so we can minimize the job cuts. When will the Minister for Personnel begin these discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Okay. Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 33-13(4): Alternatives To Public Service Job Losses

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once we have gone through the process of this conference in Iqaluit, through NTI, get some ideas from that. Once we see that, then we will try to talk to the unions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 34-13(4): Update On Regional Staffing In Fort Smith

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I would like the minister to update this House on some staffing action that apparently is taking place at the regional office level in Fort Smith, if you could, please.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 34-13(4): Update On Regional Staffing In Fort Smith

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is referring to social services staffing in the regional Fort Smith office, and that is what I will respond to. Lay-off notices have been given out to the four of the six employees that work in the regional office based in Fort Smith. The lay-off notices have been given to the administrative positions within that regional office as it stands now, in anticipation of establishment of delivery structures in the Deh

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Cho, in the Dogrib Board and the South Slave and other Mackenzie areas, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 34-13(4): Update On Regional Staffing In Fort Smith

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would he just clarify which four positions were given lay-off notices and were any of those lay-offs transfers or clear lay-offs? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 34-13(4): Update On Regional Staffing In Fort Smith

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the four positions, as it stands now, that have been given the lay-off notices are the regional superintendent's position, the manager of human resources position. Those two positions will not be required, as a result of some of the responsibilities being passed on, as I had indicated earlier, to some of the other restructuring within the Mackenzie Services Region, and the two positions of the Finance and Admin Officer, and the clerical position, those duties, we anticipate will be absorbed with the establishment of the structures in the other areas, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 34-13(4): Update On Regional Staffing In Fort Smith

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the South Slave region would be the only region at this point without any kind of regional presence. I wondered if the minister could indicate how they intend to provide that coordinating effort where there is still a need between communities with funding issues, with administration, with program implementation.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 34-13(4): Update On Regional Staffing In Fort Smith

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As indicated, there are some program positions, like the regional psychologist, the regional alcohol and drug, community and mental health specialist positions that will continue to be based in Fort Smith but will have more of a regional focus. I would see that they would be providing services to the other regions, the other areas I should say, in the region. The coordination would come through the boards of management that would undertake to work off those arrangements in these specific areas, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 35-13(4): Implementation Of Proposed Amalgamation

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Premier. Knowing that there is a lot of concern out there about the proposed amalgamation of the three departments as has been talked about for a bit in the communities, as well as, within government. Can the Premier inform this House if any part of the discussion paper on the amalgamation of the three departments will be implemented before committees have a chance to review? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 35-13(4): Implementation Of Proposed Amalgamation

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me assure the members of this Legislative Assembly of what I have said earlier. The work plan has been approved by Cabinet. The work plan goes to Government Operations and it will not be implemented until we have gone through Government Operations and gone through consultation. There will be no lay-offs and, let me say that again because I have heard members say that to me - worried about lay-offs happening already - there are no lay-offs as it relates to amalgamation. This is the early stage of amalgamation; develop the work plan while you get from point a, b, c, d and so on. It is going to be presented through Government Operations so that we have full input from members on this plan prior to proceeding. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 36-13(4): Formula Financing Negotiations

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. Can the minister inform this House as to when the gross expenditure base for both territories will be discussed with Mr. Martin and, also, will the minister consider allowing an ordinary member from the east and the west to attend these meetings with him?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, two questions.

Return To Question 36-13(4): Formula Financing Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, as I said in my statement yesterday or the day before, I was fairly clear that we intend to meet with Mr. Martin in, hopefully, early December. That in my previous discussions with Mr. Martin, we were trying to determine an appropriate process, participation, time lines as they relate to developing two new gross expenditure bases and I have not, at this time, been able to get a definitive answer from the Finance Minister for Canada. I am optimistic that we will get it in the next short while. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 36-13(4): Formula Financing Negotiations

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That answered part of my question. The second part of my question was, will the minister consider allowing an ordinary member from the east and one from the west to attend these meetings with him.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 36-13(4): Formula Financing Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not an appropriate process first of all. However, I do recognize that there is a concern, as has been expressed to me on our Ordinary Members' Caucus discussions and I thought I was clear there that what we are trying to develop is a process for participation by the west and by the east with respect to developing the time lines, the rules of engagement if you want, with respect to a formula for those gross expenditure base agreements. So, while I applaud the member for his suggestion, it would not be appropriate at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 36-13(4): Formula Financing Negotiations

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Speaker. When will this process that the minister refers to be completed?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 36-13(4): Formula Financing Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, I thought I had addressed that in the first question that my honourable colleague had asked me. That is, the process, for the umpteenth time, will be determined in discussions with Mr. Martin. I am attempting to have a meeting with Mr. Martin in early December and when Mr. Martin has advised me of the process for participation and the time lines, I will be sharing that, not only with this Assembly, but the whole of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Mr. Speaker, the minister that I was going to ask is not in the House at the moment and I will defer my question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 37-13(4): Clyde River Community Breakwater Project

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I indicated in my short member's statement that I will be asking questions about Clyde River breakwater to the Transportation Minister, Honourable Mr. Antoine. Mr. Speaker, my first question to the minister is - is the Clyde River breakwater in the budget for 1996/97? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 37-13(4): Clyde River Community Breakwater Project

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Clyde River community breakwater project is in the capital plan. For 1996/97, there are some funds there for this current year for preparing a final design for this breakwater. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Enuaraq.

Supplementary To Question 37-13(4): Clyde River Community Breakwater Project

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question to the honourable minister is, when is the construction proceeding and when is the conclusion of the breakwater expected?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine. Two questions.

Further Return To Question 37-13(4): Clyde River Community Breakwater Project

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation has been working with the Hamlet and local Hunters & Trappers Association on developing the harbour improvement, which is the breakwater. I have been fortunate enough to visit Clyde River last year with the honourable member from this constituency and I know the concerns that he has, in regards to, the high winds that are in that part of the country and the protection that the people require for their vessels and boats, and so forth, in the harbour. As a result, when I was there, we did commit ourselves to working with the community to do some improvements in two or three years and yes, things are going along fine and there is a need to improve the project there so that the sea lift landing be improved and the extension of the breakwater is required to protect the local boats. Hopefully, work will commence this coming fiscal year once these projects are approved in the House later on this month.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 38-13(4): Replacement Of Airport Equipment In Nanisivik

MR. BARNABAS:

My question is to the Minister of the Department of Transportation. The minister had a visit with me to my constituency, to Nanisivik. My question is, the equipment has been breaking apart and has been constantly repaired. There is not much that the airport people can do right now. Is the minister planning to replace this equipment that is falling apart in Nanisivik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 38-13(4): Replacement Of Airport Equipment In Nanisivik

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 19th, I had the pleasure of visiting that part of the country, Nanisivik and Arctic Bay and at Nanisivik Airport, I did go to see the equipment that the honourable member is referring to. Yes, they are in pretty bad shape and there is a real need to have massive repair on some of this equipment. However, at the same time I was there, there were two members from the Department of Transportation, mechanics, that were there and

had most of the equipment running. But yes, this equipment needs to be repaired and when I was there and met with the officials, the mechanics that were doing the repairs. They are preparing a list of what needs to get done there and we will be looking at this once we get a report from these mechanics who were analyzing this equipment.

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Then we will decide, at that point in time, on what type of repairs have to be done to this equipment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 38-13(4): Replacement Of Airport Equipment In Nanisivik

MR. BARNABAS:

I am directing this question to the Minister of Transportation. Will there be a vehicle available in case they should need a vehicle in an emergency? Will there be one available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 38-13(4): Replacement Of Airport Equipment In Nanisivik

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not too familiar with that request. I am willing to sit down with the honourable member and find out exactly what type of vehicle is required there. As I said earlier, the equipment that we had at the airport has been repaired and is operational. Even the vehicles that were there, the pickups and so forth, they are going to be repaired and, if that is the question, yes, we are intending to repair these vehicles so that they will be in good running order and they could be used for emergency purposes if that is required as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 39-13(4): Impact And Timing Of Civil Service Lay-offs

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. It is regarding his return to oral questions from yesterday. We have talked extensively in this House about the need to treat employees fairly and with respect. Earlier today, I heard the Minister of Finance indicate that while no actual lay-offs prior to the approval of the budget, employees could receive notices of possible lay-offs in anticipation of this approval. The minister has also indicated that no decisions will be made or actions taken until this House approves a budget but the input of members may still affect the end result. This means there could be employees who are told that they will be probably laid off and then, if members of this House, do not support that move, we will tell them after a few weeks of concern on their part, that, by the way, now you have a job again.

Could the minister confirm that employees may receive lay-off notices who may not actually be laid off? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 39-13(4): Impact And Timing Of Civil Service Lay-offs

HON. JOHN TODD:

We are, of course, governed by the collective agreement, Mr. Speaker. My honourable colleague has spoken many times about the need to advise our employees well in advance of impending lay-offs. So we are obligated under the collective agreement and should the budget not be approved and lay-off notices sent out, then yes, we would have to re-hire or not terminate the employment of the employees. Correct.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 39-13(4): Impact And Timing Of Civil Service Lay-offs

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that this is a dilemma for the Finance Minister. I respect that he has got a job to do. I would also point out that we are fast approaching the festive season. A time for families to get together and people to rejoice in goodwill. I understand that is a dilemma in a situation where he has to inform people. He mentioned that there will be lay-off notices potentially go out to some employees within the next several months. I am sure the Finance Minister is well aware that families usually spend more money around Christmas time than they do at other times of the year. Has the minister given any consideration as how he can couch that as to whether to send the notices out before Christmas to give people an opportunity to make a decision as to whether they wish to spend extra moneys or wait until after Christmas when they possibly will have spent moneys that they otherwise would not have done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 39-13(4): Impact And Timing Of Civil Service Lay-offs

HON. JOHN TODD:

There is no comfort level in this job these days, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to laying off people we have known for a long period of time. When it comes to laying off relatives. As I have consistently said, there is no easy way to tell our hard-working employees that, unfortunately due to the deficit elimination strategy and the need for us to balance our budget and ensure that your children, my children and my neighbour's children have got a future. There is simply no easy way. What I will attempt to do is try to do it in as caring and compassionate way as I can and I will take my honourable colleague's suggestions under consideration and see what can be done to limit the impact, if you want, at this very difficult time of the year, should an employee unfortunately be given a termination notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Henry, Supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 39-13(4): Impact And Timing Of Civil Service Lay-offs

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I believe I do not have to encourage the minister to be compassionate, I am sure he understands the particular situation. As a final supplementary Mr. Speaker, I would like some assurances from the minister that lay offs that are proposed in the next year's budget that those lay offs will be conducted fairly across all government employees in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. That was your third supplementary. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 39-13(4): Impact And Timing Of Civil Service Lay-offs

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HON. JOHN TODD:

I do hope, that given the information that the members have on the lay offs to date, that I have fully demonstrated myself, as finance minister, and as the MLA for the constituency of Keewatin Central, that there has been a fairness in the lay-off notices. The reality is, that in my own riding, 23.6 percent lay offs have occurred, which is the second highest lay-offs across the framework.

So I understand my colleagues concern, we are trying to balance this budget, and do these lay offs in a fair and equitable way, and many of you have supported that. These are difficult decisions to make, not popular ones, but they must be made if we are to balance the budget, and I will do what ever is necessary, to demonstrate to this House, to my colleagues in the audience, and to the territories at large that we are trying to do it in a fair and equitable way. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 40-13(4): Process For Lay-off Notification

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also directed to the Minister of Finance, with regards to the return to oral questions today. I understand that, and he has already reiterated for Mr. Henry, the mechanism is in place. But my question is, have lay off notices with respect to the 1997-98 budget, already been given to employees at this time?

MR. SPEAKER:

Can I ask the member to rephrase her question, without making any reference to the 1997 budget?

Question 40-13(4): Process For Lay-off Notification

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister of Finance then is, have there been any lay off notices issued to date that were not relevant to last year's budget?

- Interjection

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Last year's budget has been tabled! Excuse me. Last year's budget has been approved, has been tabled, I want to know, are there lay-off notices that have been issued that are not relevant to the current budget under which we are operating? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 40-13(4): Process For Lay-off Notification

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I have to qualify by saying, no, not to my knowledge. However, in fairness to my colleague, there have been discussions at the departmental level with those staff that may be terminated due to the budget that is going to come forward in January of 1997. Because again, I have taken the direction from the House, Mr. Henry and others have spoken frequently to it, and that is that we have to give our staff as much lieue time as we can, in relationship to the potential termination of their employment due to restraint. So I cannot unequivocally say that no lay off notices have gone forward, but, I will check into it with Mr. Voytilla at the break and talk to my colleague and clarify that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 40-13(4): Process For Lay-off Notification

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Minister of Finance that these are difficult decisions to make, and that we do need to give as much lead time to our employees as possible. However, as members of this House, I hope you can understand our situation, whereby, these difficult decisions, we as members, want to be a part of those decisions. And if decisions, or lay off notices have to go to employees prior to us being able to make decisions, then it puts us in a difficult position. So I would like to ask the minister, what, if any, is the formal mechanism for retracting or reversing, lay off notices.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 40-13(4): Process For Lay-off Notification

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, as I said, earlier Mr. Speaker, we are trying to manage our way through this budget. Committees have the business plans of government, and the business plans clearly spell out what is going to come forward. And in that, subject to the budget being approved, we would move forward with the appropriate course of action, whether it was in lay-offs, or the terminations of the programs, or whatever.

If the budget is not approved, then we would take the appropriate course of action to reinstate the programs, or reinstate the employees. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Oral questions, Mr. Erasmus.

Question 41-13(4): Workplan For The Amalgamation Of Infrastructure

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. I have had an opportunity to have a very quick look at this supposed work plan for the amalgamation of infrastructure departments. I appreciate the fact that the Premier wants to do a lot of extensive consultation with the stakeholders. I am assuming that this will have to be done before January. Since that is the case, there should be no problem with tabling this particular document now, if it is going to be sent to the stakeholders. Also, his covering letter indicates that the organizational plans will be completed and implemented by April. It is

important to have organizational plans completed, and implemented, by April 1, 1997, which means that notices will have to be sent to employees who are going to be terminated by January 1. So, I think it is imperative that we do discuss this at this session, and I am also aware that I can table this document, and I am quite prepared to do that. I am just offering the Premier one last opportunity, I am asking one last time, if he would table this document so we can discuss it in committee of the whole. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 41-13(4): Workplan For The Amalgamation Of Infrastructure

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HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As members are fully aware of what I have said earlier, Cabinet has approved the work plan for the amalgamation of these three departments. Cabinet has sent Government Ops a copy of the work plan, we will be sending it out to all stakeholders for their input. The member is not exactly correct by saying that notices have to be given by January 1, 1997, that is not true. The covering letter to the member did say that we would like the work to be completed by April 1, 1997, and I believe that any restructuring or downsizing of employees and notices will be given out once Government Ops have had a chance to look at it, and all the stakeholders to give us recommendations. As far as tabling, once again, I must say that I agreed with the 23 members of this Legislative Assembly on a process. If other members want to change that process or circumvent that process, or not stick to the process they all agreed to, it is completely up to them. But I am bound to stick to the process, and I will do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 41-13(4): Workplan For The Amalgamation Of Infrastructure

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to make a debate of this, but the motion that was passed indicated that this paper should be brought to the standing committee,

but also, that it should be discussed at session. So, it has already been sent to the committees, now the second part is to discuss it. I do not understand how the Premier believes that this is going against the statement. I would like him to explain that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 41-13(4): Workplan For The Amalgamation Of Infrastructure

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Cabinet has approved the workplan, the amalgamation of the three departments. It has gone to Government Ops committee, and it will also go to all stakeholders. Once we get the advice from that committee, as well as, stakeholders through that committee, hopefully, when they have done their review of that, I am sure they will have some good recommendations to Cabinet. Then we will table it in the Legislative Assembly in January, and then move on to try to implement the amalgamation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 41-13(4): Workplan For The Amalgamation Of Infrastructure

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If this is going to be sent out to stakeholders, people can contribute, why are we being asked to pass supplementary appropriations for \$58,000,000 transferring all kinds of money to various departments for user say/user pay? Is that not all related?

MR. SPEAKER:

The question that has been asked is a new question, it has to do with user pay/user say. Has nothing to do with the amalgamation, would you like to have one supplementary with regard to amalgamation, Mr. Erasmus? Oral questions, Mr. Ningark.

Question 42-13(4): Funding For The Repair Of Airport Maintenance Equipment

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transportation. It is a reflection of Mr. Barnabas' earlier question. Mr. Speaker, in the eastern arctic communities, especially in the winter time, people depended upon the air travel. Just about every community, and it is essential, Mr. Speaker, that the airports are maintained according to the regulations of the Ministry of Transportation. My question the Minister of Finance may want to answer it because of the financial implication in it. My question to the Transportation is, does the government have any reserve fund to replace equipment that breaks down during the maintenance of the airports. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. You have asked two ministers, you asked Mr. Todd, and you also made reference in your last sentence to the Minister of Transportation, so could you ...

Question 42-13(4): Funding For The Repair Of Airport Maintenance Equipment

MR. NINGARK:

Yes, thank you. As I indicated Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transportation. Does the government or Department of Transportation have any equipment reserve fund in the system to replace equipment that is used for the maintenance of the airport in the system. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 42-13(4): Funding For The Repair Of Airport Maintenance Equipment

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation has a five year capital plan, and in there, there are different types of equipment that get into the system here, as the equipment wears out, new ones replace them such as graters or snowblowers and so on and so forth, so these types of equipment are in the system. However, if there are break-downs during the year, there are contingency funds within the department's operational maintenance budget to do these repairs.

For example, in Nanisivik Airport, where there is a real need to repair some of this equipment, we had to

send extra mechanics to take a look at this equipment and repair them. At this point in time, we are looking at trying to determine the extent of the repairs that are required, and depending on, if it does not cost too much, then perhaps we could repair this equipment. So I guess, my answer to you, is that yes, there are some contingency funds for the maintenance of the airport. There is a little bit of flexibility there, so we could replace the equipment that breakdown during the winter months. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ningark, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 42-13(4): Funding For The Repair Of Airport Maintenance Equipment

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the extension of the question period at the same time. My supplementary to the minister, Mr. Speaker is, what happens

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if the equipment has a total breakdown, we cannot fix it. Is there any equipment reserve fund in the system of the Department of Transportation to replace equipment? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 42-13(4): Funding For The Repair Of Airport Maintenance Equipment

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if in one of the communities in the north that a very important piece of equipment for maintaining an airport breaks down and is totalled, perhaps a grader or something, then we will try to seek funds within the department to repair the equipment or try to make other arrangements to make sure the maintenance of the airport is done, and if the cost is too high, we will probably have to move some funds around within the capital structure of the whole budget, so if it is under \$250,000 then I do not have to notify anybody, but if it is above \$250,000, I will have to notify Members that may be affected by such a move. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

So question period is over. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

I would like to request that we move back to question period.

MR. SPEAKER:

You are requesting, you are not asking for unanimous consent. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return back to oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 6 - Oral questions. Do we have any nays? There are no nays, we will go back to oral questions after we take a 15 minute break.

-- Break.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Chair recognizes a quorum. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 43-13(4): Obligation To Conduct Meetings Under Gwich'in Comprehensive Claim

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to Minister of Economic Development. It is in regards to the Gwich'in Comprehensive Claim Agreement, in certain sections. In regards to section 10, Economic Measures. There are certain obligations in that agreement which were signed at the time, by this government, the federal government, and the aboriginal organizations, in regards to the Gwich'in being able to be involved in the development and the delivery of economic development programs, where they are supposed to call for...the government shall meet with the Gwich'in Tribal Council not less than once every three years to review the effectiveness of programs for leading up to the objectives of Section 10.1..

10.1 states that the government, the GNWT and Canada, in regards to economic development programs in the settlement area shall take into

account that the Gwich'in should be economically self-sufficient. My question to the minister is, will the department and this government make an attempt to fulfil that commitment which they are signatories to under that land claim agreement, because the agreement has been signed. It was legally passed in the Parliament of Canada, December 22nd, 1992, which is almost four years ago, which the agreement calls for a review in three years. So will the Minister commit to meeting that obligation?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 43-13(4): Obligation To Conduct Meetings Under Gwich'in Comprehensive Claim

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the Gwich'in Tribal Council have just recently sent a letter to the Premier, requesting that a meeting take place, to work on a mutually acceptable definition and a mutually acceptable approach to fulfilling the obligation set out in that particular section of the Gwich'in claim. I am expecting to be invited to participate in that meeting, which I hope will take place in the next week or so. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 43-13(4): Obligation To Conduct Meetings Under Gwich'in Comprehensive Claim

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary is in regards to the commitment by the minister. Do you have particular dates, and times for this particular meeting? Have you considered looking at trying to resolve this thing as soon as possible, because we do feel that there are presently some issues in relation to contracts that have been released in the Gwich'in settlement region, which are presently being questioned in regards to the way they were allocated. How soon can they expect this meeting?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 43-13(4): Obligation To Conduct Meetings Under Gwich'in Comprehensive Claim

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the request for a meeting, as penned by Mr. Robert Alexie, I believe, and Mr. Nerysoo, was addressed to the Premier, and I think, appropriately, since it should probably involve myself and perhaps other appropriate ministers, as the different jurisdictions are addressed in those discussions. I am not aware that the Premier has made any definite commitments at this time to meet with the delegation. I understood that the delegation is in town at the present time. How long they will be in town I have no idea. But it is probably a matter of logistics, trying to find a time when the Premier and other ministers are available. If they choose to meet with specific ministers as events are unfolding in the House today, I would expect that all of us will be available for the week-end, and very definitely next week as well, to meet with the delegation, and I would welcome the opportunity. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 43-13(4): Obligation To Conduct Meetings Under Gwich'in Comprehensive Claim

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to that, my question to the minister is, will he be able to have the information which is spelled out in the agreement in regards to

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the statement "government shall assist in the development, the commercial viability of Gwich'in businesses and enterprises, and the necessary identification of proposed sources of financial assistance" and also looking at the programs that presently are being delivered by this government, so that they can take a look at those programs also. Will you have that information available for this meeting?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 43-13(4): Obligation To Conduct Meetings Under Gwich'in Comprehensive Claim

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, our mandate is to let the public know, and certainly aboriginal peoples and their representatives what opportunities we have for advancing the economic well-being of communities and regions, and different peoples in the Northwest Territories. We would be prepared to have the senior officials there at the meeting to have a discussion with the Gwich'in leadership on what resources and opportunities, programs, services currently are available to them, in order to assist in the economic aspirations that they may choose to pursue at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Final supplementary. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 43-13(4): Obligation To Conduct Meetings Under Gwich'in Comprehensive Claim

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary is, will the Minister commit, and report to his other colleagues, that in relation to the other contractual arrangements that may be in question in the Gwich'in settlement region, be put on hold until these discussions have been resolved?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 43-13(4): Obligation To Conduct Meetings Under Gwich'in Comprehensive Claim

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, since I am not aware of the particulars that the member is referring to, I really am not able to make that commitment. I would suggest that the sooner we make arrangements for a meeting, that the sooner we can address the issues and concerns that the delegation would bring to us. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to recognize some Grade 10 students from Sir John Franklin school with their teacher, Cynthia Russell. Welcome.

--Applause.

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 44-13(4): Definition Of Northern Residency Under The BHP Socio-Economic Agreement

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the minister responsible for RWED, Mr. Kakfwi. I refer to the socio-economic agreement between BHP and the BHP diamonds project. I refer to a definition of northern residents. One particular clause within that agreement, within that northern resident definition is that the person to be classified as a northern resident, has to have been continuously a northern resident for a period of at least six months prior to hiring. My question to the minister is, was there any consideration given to the fact that the Northwest Territories needs the taxes that are generated by the employees and also the purchasing power of goods and services that would be obtained through business in the north with those employees purchasing goods and services? This clause requires someone having to live in the Northwest Territories six months prior to being able to get a job here as a northerner. When people would be hired in the south, and I think there is a recognition by all parties, that a certain number of employees will come from southern Canada. If they are flying in and out to the job site, there is not much of an opportunity for them to become northern residents, to live in the Northwest Territories and therefore gain the tax revenue, or have their tax revenue attributed to the Northwest Territories. Again, my question to the minister is, was any consideration of this fact given to that prior to putting it into this agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 44-13(4): Definition Of Northern Residency Under The BHP Socio-Economic Agreement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I can assure the member that a great many things were taken into consideration in

advancing the positions that we took in negotiating with the federal government, with BHP, and the different aboriginal groups that were involved in the many negotiating tables that took place, that culminated in the conclusions that we reached with BHP, with the aboriginal groups, and agreements that were reached between the federal government and this government. Whether we should have fly-in/fly-out operations, how we can maximize opportunities to benefit from taxes, from economic opportunities that will arise from this development, were all considered.

The member will be, and should be aware that all this was a process of negotiations and perhaps some things fell by the wayside, that is the nature of negotiations. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 44-13(4): Definition Of Northern Residency Under The BHP Socio-Economic Agreement

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The request that I have, what happens when the company, BHP needs employees and has filled its southern quota and cannot find suitable northerners? Does this company scale back its operations or does the GNWT compensate for lost revenue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, that was your third supplementary, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 44-13(4): Definition Of Northern Residency Under The BHP Socio-Economic Agreement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the company has, voluntarily, months ago stated very clearly its commitment, to

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It is our expectation at this time, that with the good-will and the very strong commitment made by BHP, and the support and co-ordination by the agencies of this government, that we will be able to meet that, and if we are not able to meet it, it is our expectation that

BHP will meet with us to address the deficiencies that may be encountering so that we can still strive to meet the targets that we have set in the written agreement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 44-13(4): Definition Of Northern Residency Under The BHP Socio-Economic Agreement

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just would like to commend the minister on a very clear and concise answer, and I would encourage other members/ministers to do the same, rather than short answers. Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Just to remind the members that is improper use of question period. Oral questions, Mr. Erasmus.

Question 45-13(4): Tabling Of The Workplan On The Amalgamation Of Infrastructure Departments

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question is for the Premier. It is in relation to the previous question that I asked about the amalgamation document that he sent to the Government Operations Committee, which he has refused to table. I would like to know if the Premier, or the Cabinet have any reservations, or if they have anything against the Government Operations Committee or myself as the Chairman of Government Operations tabling this document.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 45-13(4): Tabling Of The Workplan On The Amalgamation Of Infrastructure Departments

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said previously, the Cabinet did look and consider this document and they approved this document to go to Government Operations, to review as well as to go to the general

public for the stakeholders input into this document. We, as a government, have no objection at all, if Government Operations chooses to table the document in the House, that could be seen as part of their review of the document. Government Operations has the document now, it is my understanding, and if they wish to table it, I would welcome them to do that.

I am sure that all members of the Assembly understand that we, as a Cabinet, and myself as Premier have due process to follow and that is why I answered to questions previously the way I did. We believe that we are following that process and as long as they understand that it will have implications on other documents that we deal with in the future. I would welcome them to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 45-13(4): Tabling Of The Workplan On The Amalgamation Of Infrastructure Departments

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Premier elaborate a little bit on how it is going to affect future documents?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 45-13(4): Tabling Of The Workplan On The Amalgamation Of Infrastructure Departments

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have all agreed as members of this Assembly on the committee process. We have all agreed that when government is reviewing documents, and reviewing decisions, from there it would go to the committee process, and from the committee process it would come into the Legislative Assembly. This would pre-empt that, but if that is the way members choose to do it, then it is up to them.

MR. SPEAKER:

Again, just to remind the minister that this is a convention, this is not the general rule of the House,

what you are saying, because, not all documents go to committees. Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 45-13(4): Tabling Of The Workplan On The Amalgamation Of Infrastructure Departments

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You are totally right, and I apologize for that. What I was talking about, is when Cabinet has made a decision, especially on amalgamation of three departments, to develop a work plan, then it was to go to the committees and similar type decisions. But, I had the opportunity during the break to meet with the chairman of Government Operations and, in the spirit of consensus government, we do not have a problem as Cabinet, or myself as the Premier, and we have no objection to the chairman of Government Operations tabling that document. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 45-13(4): Tabling Of The Workplan On The Amalgamation Of Infrastructure Departments

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am getting conflicting signals here, on the one hand the Premier is saying that he has no problem with me tabling this document, but on the other hand he is indicating that it may jeopardize future operation of the committee structure, the system that we have

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in place. Perhaps the Premier could explain a little better what he means by that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 45-13(4): Tabling Of The Workplan On The Amalgamation Of Infrastructure Departments

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the fall of last year when we all got elected as members of the Legislative Assembly, we all agreed on a committee process to be used to look at and review decisions that the government made, for example, budgets or amalgamation of departments, or whatever. Part of that process, Mr. Speaker, was that after Cabinet had reviewed the documents and they had recommendations they would take that to the committee that was responsible for that document and we agreed on that process, so that is the process we are following.

Government Cabinet has reviewed an amalgamation document work plan and we sent it to government operations. It was our understanding at that time that Government Operations would review the document, as well as, stake-holder groups would review the document, then it would come into the Legislative Assembly in January.

My understanding from the questions today and from the meeting with the Caucus chairman is that some members have concerns whether or not this document is being implemented already or has been done already and has acknowledged those concerns, and, as I have said to the member, and I have said to the chairman of Government Operations, if they choose to table that document in the Legislative Assembly today or tomorrow, that would be no problem.

We support that, but it is coming from them and it is not coming from the Cabinet per se, because we agreed to follow a certain course of how to get input into our government decisions. That is the course we are following, so, there is no doubt in my mind, that this will happen today, then I would look forward to the next caucus meeting that we have, all 24 members to discuss the committee system and how it works, and how we would use it. It has been one year, maybe we have to review that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Oral questions. Oral question, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker, I request that we adjourn for 10 minutes, so that we have an opportunity as OMC to meet.

MR. SPEAKER:

There has been a request by the member for Yellowknife Centre to adjourn for 15 minutes, but

again to remind the members that it is not up to one single member to dictate to the rest of the members, when to adjourn and when not to adjourn, so I am going to ask if we have unanimous consent to adjourn for 15 minutes. Do we have unanimous consent? There are no nays. We have 15 minutes. There is one nay, you do not have unanimous consent, Mr. Ootes.

Oral questions, Oral questions, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

My apologies Mr. Speaker, I will pass.

MR. SPEAKER:

No, you did not get unanimous consent. We are still on oral questions, Mr. Picco.

Question 46-13(4): User Pay/ User Say Initiatives Contained In Bill 1

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following the line of questioning from Mr. Erasmus and other members. I would just like to have some clarification to questions answered. Supplementary Appropriation, No. 2 in 96 and 97. The mains and supplementary. The total appropriation was \$58,206,000. Can the Premier tell me is that part and parcel of the amalgamation of the three departments?

MR. SPEAKER:

I am sorry, Mr. Picco, but the Supplementary Appropriation, No 2 has already been decided by the House and is in third reading so you cannot ask questions on that. Oral questions, Mr. Picco.

Question 47-13(4): Status Of The Implementation Of The User Pay/User Say Initiatives

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the user pay/user say initiative is a major component of this government. Can the Premier tell me, has this government made any moves to transfer funds from one department to another for the usage of user pay/user say?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 47-13(4): Status Of The Implementation Of The User Pay/User Say Initiatives

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HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year we passed a budget and part of that budget was user pay/user say and yes we have made moves to transfer to the departments authority some portions of their budget that Public Works used to have authority over before. We have talked about that previously in the House, Mr. Speaker. Everyone agreed when they passed the budget that in respect of good management and deputies being able to manage their own dollars in their department to become more effective, then user pay user/say would be one of the initiatives of the government and it was passed already by this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions supplementary, Mr Picco.

Supplementary To Question 47-13(4): Status Of The Implementation Of The User Pay/User Say Initiatives

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, so the transfer of funds to different government departments, as far as, the user pay/user say strategy, that has been confirmed. My supplementary question to the minister is, the total amounts transferred to date, which is part of the public records, which is approved, could the minister tell me would that leave one department without sufficient resources to stand alone as a user of user pay/user say?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 47-13(4): Status Of The Implementation Of The User Pay/User Say Initiatives

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not fully understand the question but I will answer it the best I can anyhow. User pay/user say gives the departments and the management the ability to manage their own resources within that department. It was through this the majority of those dollars, would have come out of Department of Public Works because the Department

of Public Works was the department that used to manage on behalf of every government department, the majority of those services. The Department of Public Works will be downscaled significantly because of that initiative. Whether or not it can stand on its own, I believe that it can, regardless of user pay/user say, because nothing says those same managers will not go back to Public Works and buy that service. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 47-13(4): Status Of The Implementation Of The User Pay/User Say Initiatives

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So as the Premier said, substantial amounts of money have been transferred out of the budget of DPW to allow for the user pay/user say initiative and thus, they are left with very little, in the way of O & M or capital dollars, as indicated by the Premier. So, my supplementary question then is, what is the plan now for the Department of Public Works with 90 percent of its money gone? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 47-13(4): Status Of The Implementation Of The User Pay/User Say Initiatives

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Public Works will stay the same until we have amalgamation in the three departments and it will carry out its function, what its mandate is and possibly through management buying services of that department that will supplement its budget. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 47-13(4): Status Of The Implementation Of The User Pay/User Say Initiatives

MR. PICCO:

No, Mr. Speaker. it is not a supplementary question, it is a point of clarification. Did the minister say that, indeed, Public Works would be an entity unto itself until the amalgamation or after amalgamation?

MR. SPEAKER:

With regard to your supplementary, you did indicate that it was not a supplementary and it was a point of clarification, it was still a question, Mr. Picco. I should be the one to ask members for a point of clarification when it is required, in this case there is. So could you clarify your question?

Supplementary To Question 47-13(4): Status Of The Implementation Of The User Pay/User Say Initiatives

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am having a problem with my hearing thing so I could not quite hear the honourable member's answer and that was the point. My supplementary, my final supplementary question then, to the Premier is, because we are on that slippery slope of downsizing, user pay/user say, the Department of Public Works and Services lost 90 percent of its funding. Because of user pay/user say it would seem that there is nothing left for it but to be amalgamated.

So thus, my question is to the Premier, will the Department of Public Works and Services be amalgamated because of the lack of funds that it currently holds because it cannot stand alone now with 10 percent of the funding it has left?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 47-13(4): Status Of The Implementation Of The User Pay/User Say Initiatives

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through the user say/user say service the departments now have the ability to go out and buy the services whether it be from the private sector or the Department of Public Works. In some cases the departments will be able to buy their services off the Department of Public Works and in some cases off the private sector.

I do not think that by saying that it has been reduced by 90 percent, I am not sure if it has been reduced by that much, but my understanding is that until we take

a look at amalgamation, the Department of Public Works will be a department of this government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Again just to remind the members that, when the members are asking a question and the question has been asked that they sit down after a question because, sometimes after a question is asked, the Hansard will shut off your mike and you do not get the added additions that you wanted to say in your preamble. Oral questions, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I appreciate that there were intervening discussions that took place between certain members and members of Cabinet and chairs over the lunch hour, not all members were party to those discussions and now we are being called upon to make important decisions not knowing what was discussed or what the implications of some of the decisions might be. Given that, I feel at a loss, to some extent, and seek unanimous consent, again, for a fifteen minute recess so that we can be updated on those discussions. Mr. Speaker, I also want to clarify, that question period would be stopped and re-started again after the fifteen minute recess?

MR. SPEAKER:

Yes, the rule of the House is that if the member requests to return to an item then the rule applies to that one hour question period. If, during the question period, the member requests unanimous consent to extend question period, then there are not time limits. Yes, we will stop the clock if we have unanimous consent to take a fifteen minute recess.

There is a request by the member for Hay River, she is requesting unanimous consent to take a fifteen minute recess, do we have any nays? There are no nays, Mrs. Groenewegen...

AN HON. MEMBER:

Nay.

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MR. SPEAKER:

You do not have unanimous consent. So the clock continues to tick and we are still on question period. Oral question, Mr. Rabesca.

MR. RABESCA:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. can I ask for unanimous consent to go back to recognition of visitors in the gallery?

MR. SPEAKER:

The member for North Slave is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery, but before I seek unanimous consent, I have already made rulings on this on previous occasions. While the clock is ticking for question period, if a member wishes to do that and it is the will of the House, then I cannot stop it from happening but to remind the members that when they do that, the clock will continue to run and you have, perhaps, not given the other members an opportunity to ask additional questions once question period is concluded. The member for North Slave is seeking unanimous consent. Do we have unanimous consent? Are there any nays? Mr. Rabesca, you have unanimous consent.

MR. RABESCA:

Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the students from Rae-Edzo who are here this afternoon in the visitors' gallery. Their teachers are Mona Matthews and Rosa Ring, parent volunteer is Madeline Zoe and their bus driver is Michele Rabesca. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. We are back to Question Period. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 48-13(4): Funding For Gwich'in Oil And Gas Development

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. It is in regards to a statement I made earlier in the week, regarding a meeting which was held in Aklavik between the Gwich'in Tribal Council and a firm out of Calgary, Ground River Resources, hopefully, which is looking at lands for oil and gas within the Gwich'in settlement region. At the present time, there are funds available within the department for consultation with developers such as the mining companies for areas where there is development such as the Deh Cho and the Sahtu.

My question to the minister is, will he make those resources available to the Gwich'in Tribal Council and also have his resource people start that consultation with the Gwich'in to start looking at accessing some of those resources so they can meet with this company out of Calgary and start looking at what the potential possibility of oil and gas development is and the spin-offs that will come from that as soon as possible?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 48-13(4): Funding For Gwich'in Oil And Gas Development

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the oil and gas companies are interested in alliance within the Northwest Territories and they should be in a particular area. Irregardless of the location, irregardless of who the people in the vicinity are, it is the responsibility of this government to provide whatever support and assistance we can in order to allow for opportunities to be created, for processes to expedite economic development to be encouraged.

It is not the intent of this government to provide less services to certain peoples and regions of the north. It is my commitment and has always been a commitment I have had to provide for that. It is an opportunity and a privilege to provide and to offer a meeting to the member and his people and these leaders at the earliest opportunity to meet to see what we can do in this specific area. Aside from the earlier meeting that he was requesting, if there are specific things that we can do in the next day or so to give a forum to some of his leaders from his region to express ways in which we can help assist them in capitalizing and seizing opportunities that are currently waiting to be opened, to be seized upon, I would be most happy to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 48-13(4): Funding For Gwich'in Oil And Gas Development

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the potential to my region at the present time, which is economically lame, pretty quiet, nothing really happening in regards to development. Opportunities like these do not come too often. I think we have to take advantage of those opportunities that are there. This is an organization that we have had discussions with ten years ago. Now they are back and I do not think we should allow the opportunity to pass us by again.

I think the intention of my question is that we have to have the adequate resources to be able to not only sit down and meet with this company, but also have the resources to develop positions and also look at the benefits agreements because there is no northern accord in place. Also access agreements to those lands in the Gwich'in settlement region. Also look at the legal documents and have them reviewed by lawyers, consultants, people that have that expertise.

The resources we are talking about are not just for the sake of getting together and having a meeting. The resources have to be adequate to allow us to start the consultation process and come with agreements. Similar to the process that just went through with BHP in which there are social and economic impact agreements between that company and benefit agreements that have been signed. So, I think I am talking about something more than just a meeting between the parties. So, the resources are available more in the line of developing the proposal and also looking at the benefit agreements that have come forward with those proposals. So, will those resources be made available.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 48-13(4): Funding For Gwich'in Oil And Gas Development

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I hope I have not offended the member by offering to meet and if I implied that was all I was interested in then he has underestimated the generosity of my offer.

-- Laughter

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HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: What I am offering to do, Mr. Speaker, is to look at the oil and gas sector which I agree needs to be developed. It is a priority of this

government to see what we can do in a whole range of sectors in the area of economic development -- in the oil and gas sector for instance. I am seeking advice, recommendations and direction from people like the Gwich'in, the Inuvialuit, the Sahtu leaders, the Deh Cho leaders, among others who are sitting on potential rich oil and gas resources, to tell me what it is they think I should do, how I should be doing it and how I can work in partnership with them to put this government in a position, with adequate policies and resources, necessary to be a true partner with the different peoples of the Northwest Territories to take advantage of these opportunities. That would be the purpose of the meeting and if there are specific dollars and resources that are required to get to that stage then I am prepared to hear that as well.

That was the intent of the offer that I made to meet as quickly as possible so we can get on with that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 48-13(4): Funding For Gwich'in Oil And Gas Development

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his generous offer. Are we talking a million dollars here or are we talking in the hundreds of thousands of dollars?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 48-13(4): Funding For Gwich'in Oil And Gas Development

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I can only say that if I knew there was a 100 million to be made by simply putting a million, I would put the million forward today. So, it is directly proportional to the benefits which we are able to reap at the other end. If there are zero benefits, there will probably be zero dollars. At least in the first instance, I would say that I am prepared to provide whatever resources are necessary to make a true assessment of the potential in the oil and gas sector, from the geographic area that the member is addressing. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. That was your final supplementary, Mr. Krutko. Oral questions, Mr. Henry.

Question 49-13(4): Yellowknife River Bridge Replacement

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of Transportation. At present, the bridge over the Yellowknife river is being replaced. I understand that the present structure is being cut up for scrap. Could the minister confirm or deny this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 49-13(4): Yellowknife River Bridge Replacement

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the honourable mentioned, the bridge over the Yellowknife river is being replaced by a newer structure that will accommodate millions of tons of supplies that will be going up north of Yellowknife into the Slave province for mining. As the former structure is very old, it has run through its life and to repair it and to bring it back up to standard would be very costly. To move it any place would also be very costly. At this point in time, the department has recommended that it not be used any longer and it be dismantled. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral question, Mr. Picco.

Question 50-13(4): Supreme Court Justice For Nunavut

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of Justice. Earlier in the session, or the last couple of months, the minister of Justice was asked by myself what the process was for the naming of a supreme court judge to be based in Nunavut. Could the minister of Justice update this House on the status of that position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 50-13(4): Supreme Court Justice For Nunavut

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to check into the progress being made in that area and report back to the honourable member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 50-13(4): Supreme Court Justice For Nunavut

MR. PICCO:

Just a point of clarification, Mr. Speaker. Did the minister take that question as notice?

MR. SPEAKER:

That was a question. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 50-13(4): Supreme Court Justice For Nunavut

HON. KELVIN NG:

Just to clarify, I will now take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 51-13(4): Status Of Transfer Of An EDO To Arctic Bay

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translator) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the minister of MACA. The hamlet of Arctic Bay is working towards community empowerment and they are going to be taking on an economic development officer. There is no position in that area at present. There was a letter written to the minister of MACA in regards to this. Can she give me an update as to what has been done to date? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Return To Question 51-13(4): Status Of Transfer Of An EDO To Arctic Bay

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HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Question is taken as notice. Oral question, Mr. Picco.

Question 52-13(4): Concerns Regarding The Leasing/Sale Of Housing In Iqaluit

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of Finance. Recently we talked about it in this House and I raised it on the crisis that was adverted with the housing in my constituency. I want to ask the minister of Finance what is happening to avert said crisis with leases and the escalation of rents in my constituency. Maybe the minister for FMBS could update the House on that status. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 52-13(4): Concerns Regarding The Leasing/Sale Of Housing In Iqaluit

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course I do not view it as a crisis, I view it as an opportunity in the purchasing of the staff houses. We will conclude hopefully, despite some of the minor inconveniences and problems we have had over the last little while with the sale of the staff housing, hopefully, by the end of this year. If not, early into the new year. On the matter of leasing, I have said on a consistent basis that this government will continue where need can be established with developers to provide them with either lease guarantees or actual leases with respect to their housing. However, I should say, Mr. Speaker, where developers have had a long term fiscal by this previous governments for a long extended period of

time and there is no requirement for borrowing purposes to have a continuing lease commitment, we are not prepared to commit then. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral question, supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 52-13(4): Concerns Regarding The Leasing/Sale Of Housing In Iqaluit

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister keeps talking about developers and to me that means developing new units and so and so forth. My supplementary question to the minister, can he clarify what he means by developers?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 52-13(4): Concerns Regarding The Leasing/Sale Of Housing In Iqaluit

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr Speaker, if I may use Mr. Picco's riding as an example, as I am sure he will appreciate. He has an organization that has a number of developers in that community both Inuit and non-Inuit developers who we have entered into leases to provide them with the appropriate safety net, if you want, with respect to bankers, to get the long term mortgages they require to build these buildings. Provided they can show that there is a need for the government to continue to provide that security to enable their mortgages to continue, we are prepared to continue to support them. Of course, if I can use another example, in my honourable colleague's riding there is a developer there that has a commitment from this government since 1968, over almost a 30 year commitment and we believe that there is no requirement for the security of the government with respect to mortgaging considering that we have been in those building for 30 years. That is all. It is not the intent to do otherwise. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 52-13(4): Concerns Regarding The Leasing/Sale Of Housing In Iqaluit

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister clarifying that point. My concern here -- and has been and will be and still is - is the consideration that a lot of my constituents are in leased accommodations and this government has been moving out of that. We have had some major problems. I would call it a crisis, where people have been phoning me, wondering will they have a roof over their head. Can the minister confirm that indeed we will continue to lease units from whoever, whatever developer in my constituency so that these tenants working at the hospital, working at the college, so on and so forth will actually have a roof over their heads for the foreseeable future.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 52-13(4): Concerns Regarding The Leasing/Sale Of Housing In Iqaluit

HON. JOHN TODD:

I wonder if Mr. Picco, if I could seek some clarification. I am not quite sure if this is fair or not. Would Mr. Picco be referring to the 200 units FDL project?

MR. SPEAKER:

The time for question period is over. But I will ask the member for Iqaluit to clarify his question.

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, I think I will take that under advisement.

-- Laughter

MR. PICCO:

No, seriously. I was implying that is one of the many leases that are being held, yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 52-13(4): Concerns Regarding The Leasing/Sale Of Housing In Iqaluit

HON. JOHN TODD:

Let me be direct. If Mr. Picco is referring to the FDL project in which the government in 1968 between

Commissioner Hudson and the Honourable Jean Chretien who was the Minister of Indian Affairs at the time, signed off an arrangement which guaranteed those facilities for a 25 to 30 year period. If he is asking me will this government continue to lease and guarantee the leases in that unit, the answer is no.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question period is over. By the authority given the Speaker by motion 3-14(4) the House adjournment for today will be 4:00 pm. We will take a 15 minute break. Exactly.

-- Break

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MR. SPEAKER: Returns to written questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Report of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12, Reports on Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table two documents, Northwest Tabled Document 10-13(4), Territories Law Foundation 14th Annual Report for the fiscal year, ending June 30, 1996, and I wish to table Tabled Document 11-13(4), the Legal Services Board of the Northwest Territories Annual Report for 1995/96, and Tabled Document 12-13(4), the Annual Report for 1994/95. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter, and a discussion paper, entitled, Amalgamation of Infrastructure Department, Tabled Document 13-13(4). This document excludes page four of the discussion paper that I have received.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter to the Premier, John Todd, and Kelvin Ng, Tabled

Document 14-13(4). It is from the Inuvik Indian Band, from the Chief. It is in regards to Section 10 of the Gwich'in Agreement.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, Tabled Document 15-13(4), a letter from the mayor of Gjoa Haven, Hamlet of Gjoa Haven, Mr. Terry McCallum, to the RCMP G Division, here in Yellowknife, regarding the community request for detachment office facility for Gjoa Haven. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Notices of motion. Mr. Dent, your point of order.

Point Of Order

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Actually, Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if this is a point of order, or a point of privilege, but I will make my point, and let you decide. It has to do with Mr. Henry's Member's statement this morning.

Mr. Speaker, Cabinet has not discussed the constitutional package put out by the Constitutional Working Group. Therefore, the government has no position. In his member's statement this morning, Mr. Henry said, I believe, that this government has adopted a paternalistic approach to aboriginal people which will only divide aboriginal and non-aboriginals. He then said that the draft constitution is an example of this approach. Mr. Speaker, I would argue that this is misleading the public to allege that this position has been taken, particularly in light of Mr. Antoine's statement yesterday, which does reflect the position of this government.

Mr. Antoine in his statement yesterday pointed out that the draft constitution package highlighted one model, but it also proposed two others. It will hopefully inspire many further variations. He went on to say that "the Constitutional Working Group was not seeking comments on the one model only. It wanted to encourage full public discussion to develop an approach which would have widespread support and could be put forth for consideration by all residents and the Government of Canada."

Mr. Henry implied that the government had led the process of drafting the package presented by the Constitutional Working Group. When in fact the Constitutional Working Group was given its mandate, and reported to the Constitutional Development Steering Committee. The government is not a member of that committee, Mr. Henry is. The public is likely to believe from Mr. Henry's statement that this government is trying to push one of the models for a constitution proposed by the Constitutional Working Group, when it is not.

Further, Mr. Speaker, as a member of the government, I am offended by Mr. Henry's statement that government is irresponsible. If I heard it correctly, he said, "this government endorsed a constitution", and then went on to say, "this is totally irresponsible of government". Mr. Speaker, as I said, as a member of government, I take offence at being labelled irresponsible, especially when no government endorsement has been given on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

I will allow Mr. Henry to respond to that point of order. Once the response is made, I will review the point of order, and give my judgement on it, at a later date. Mr. Henry, do you wish to respond?

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The only response I would make at this time, is that the honourable member has had approximately a couple of hours, since I made my statement, and I am sure that he would be more than happy to give me the time to take a look at that, and I will respond at a later time, if I may. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I will ask the member then, that he makes that response before my ruling. Because after my ruling, there is no point in making a response. Notices of motion. Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 4-13(4): Extended Adjournment

MR. OOTES:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you. I give notice that on Monday, December 2nd, 1996, I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable member for Keewatin Central, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when this House adjourns on November 30, 1996, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, January 21st, 1997. And further, that any time prior to January 21st, 1997, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice, and there upon that the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice, and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned at that time.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Do you seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion at the appropriate time?

MR. OOTES:

I do, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Notices of motion. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Motion 5-13(4): Formal Discussions and Response From The Federal Government On Constitutional Development For The Western NWT

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, December 2nd, 1996, I will move the following motion.

Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable member for North Slave, that the Legislative Assembly supports and urges the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and the Minister of National Constitutional Affairs to formally present the draft constitution package, Partners in a New Beginning, to the federal minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to permit formal discussions with the federal minister on constitutional development in the western Northwest Territories.

And further, that these discussions lead to a clear response from the federal government on the

acceptability from a federal perspective of the principles and the design elements contained in the three different models contained in the draft constitution package.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Mr. Ootes.

Motion 6-13(4): Move TD 13-13(4) Into Committee Of The Whole

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, December 2nd, 1996, I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable member for High Arctic, that Tabled Document 13-13(4), entitled, Amalgamation of Infrastructure Department, 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.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Motions. First reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 3: Family Law Act

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable member for Aivilik that Bill 3, Family Law Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 3 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 4: Children's Law Act

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable member for Nahendeh,

that Bill 4, Children's Law Act, be read for the first time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 4 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 5: Adoption Act

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 5, Adoption Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 5 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 6: Child And Family Services Act

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable member for Keewatin Central, that Bill 6, Child and Family Services Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 6 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Ms. Thompson.

Bill 7: Municipal Statutes Amending Act

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by honourable member for Nahendeh, that Bill 7, Municipal Statutes Amending Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 7 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to return to item 16 on the agenda, Motions.

MR. SPEAKER:

The member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 16, Motions. Do we have any nays? There are no nays, you have unanimous consent. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. The member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent to proceed Mr. Ootes.

Motion 6-13(4): Move Tabled Document 13-13(4) into Committee Of The Whole

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable member for High Arctic, the Tabled Document

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13-13(4), entitled Amalgamation of Infrastructure Department be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER:

Most members do not have copies of the motion. We do not have it in translated version so we will take a five minute break to get the copies of the motion.

-- Break

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ootes

MR. OOTES:

I seek unanimous consent to move, seconded by the honourable member for the High Arctic, tabled document 13-(4) entitled Amalgamation of

Infrastructure Department be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ootes, your motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Ootes, do you wish to speak to your motion?

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I do not, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Motions. Second reading of bills, second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Minister's Statement 1-13(4), 5-13(4), 6-13(4). Tabled Documents 4-13(4), 5-13(4) with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. We have a number of items here. Minister's Statement 1-13(4), Premier's Sessional Statement; Minister's Statement 5-13(4), Division Planning; Minister's Statement 6-13(4), Western Constitutional Development; Tabled Document 4-13(4), Partners in a New Beginning; Tabled Document 5-13(4), Footprints 2, the Second Comprehensive Report of the NIC and we also have Tabled Document 13-13(4), Amalgamation of Infrastructure Department. What is the wish of the committee, Mr. Ootes?

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would recommend that the committee consider Minister's Statement 5-13(4), Minister's Statement 5-13(4), Tabled Document 4-13(4), Tabled Document 5-13(4) as one item, the next item for consideration.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I was trying to keep track of what was in order, but I lost track of things here, I am told Tabled Documents 4, 5, and Minister's Statement, in that order. Do we concur? Thank you. The floor is now open for general discussion. Tabled Document 4, 5 and 6, Minister's Statement. Do we have any general comments? Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have some general comments on the Tabled Document 5-13(4), Footprints 2, the Second Comprehensive Report of the NIC. Mr. Speaker, the Footprints in New Snow 2 goes the next step in defining and enhancing the vision of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. I congratulate chairman John Amagoalik and his staff for the detail and hard work that went into this final product.

The continued downsizing and reductions of this government has meant that job employment projects and other logistical areas in the Footsteps 1 had to be revamped. The product that is left, may mean less decentralization, this is a fact of the times and the NIC has reacted this reality in a very proactive way. Last weekend in Iqaluit many of the elected officials and Nunavut leaders met to discuss many areas of the report. The controversial issue of gender equality was discussed and after considerable debate, a straw-pull of the leaders indicated concurrence with the gender representation issue. The direct election of the premier for Nunavut and other associated options was discussed. There will have to be more consultation on this issue.

We also discussed the possibility of allowing a direct election in Nunavut before April 1, 1999 to allow the new government of Nunavut to be up and running on April 1, 1999. I support that position.

Mr. Chairman, Footprints 2 contradicts the GNWT in its plans, for example, to sell-off staff housing. I, too, have repeatedly asked for this to be put on hold in the Nunavut settlement area. There are other areas of departmental direction and amalgamation that are also contradictory to the current GNWT policy, but overall the Nunavut vision continues as enhanced by the report. As this government continues to amalgamate, down-size, reduce and lay-off employees, another update of the GNWT in 1998 and the composition of the Inuvik government at that time will mean more updates to the Footprints document. I strongly endorse Footprints 2 and look forward to April 1, 1999, and the next meeting in January to discuss the language and other issues in Nunavut.

On a personal note, Mr. Chairman, during last weekend's meeting/debate on allowing representation by guaranteed seats by gender, it was discussed at some length. I said at that meeting, and on record, that personally we should be voting for people's abilities and not their gender. But, I also agree, that a

mechanism has to be put in place to allow greater representation for women.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman, many barriers, like support to the people running for office, daycare, and other issues also need to be addressed to get better representation for women in legislative assemblies. I voted along with most present at that meeting to support dual constituencies because I felt that we need to increase women's participation in public life. Mr. Chairman, I will be doing a mail-out along with e-mail on the Internet to question the constituents of Iqaluit on this matter, so that all residents of Iqaluit will be able to voice their position on this most sensitive issue.

Further, Mr. Chairman, I guess a slippage of my conversation and comments were heard on CBC Radio in the Eastern Arctic over the past few days, and I have had some messages and faxes and e-mails concerning my stand on the gender issue. I want to reiterate for the record, Mr. Chairman, that I endorse women representation, whether that be by direct representation or by guaranteeing gender seats. Although, there is some concern that at the federal level with enabling legislation for Nunavut, that the Act to amend the Nunavut Act may have some problems passing if we are guaranteeing seats. That would have to be discussed at the federal level, but overall, Mr. Chairman, I endorse and strongly support the position of having gender equality in the new Legislative Assembly for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. We are discussing considering Partners in a New Beginning, Footprint 2, the Divisional Planning Western Constitutional Development altogether. General comments. Do we have Mr. Miltenberger, were you in the process of raising your hand?

MR. MILTENBERGER:

I was not really, but I will speak, now that you have recognized me. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I just have some brief comments from my western perspective and the first one is that, I, generally, support the work that was done on Footprints 2, although there are areas that in specific, in regards to the form of funding

arrangements that we would have to ensure fairness and equity to both governments.

We would also have to make it very clear that it is the right of both the new territories and the people of the territories that define their respective structures. Mr. Chairman, it is clear that there is a strong need for western presence at the decision making tables on the following issues; formula financing, divisions of assets and liabilities, sharing of programs and services, including the WCB, and NWT Power Corporation and in the area of labour relations. As well, we have to have representation at the CCON table on issues which will relate or impact on the West. We also have to, as has been raised repeatedly by a number of people, make sure that the GNWT staff are treated fairly and equitably.

From my perspective, I think those MLAs from the west we want to make sure that provisions are in place to allow for the continuation of the 13th Assembly to November 1999, regardless of the timing of the first Nunavut election, so that neither side is affected by the decisions made by the other.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is critical that we keep to the high road on this whole process, it is not this Assembly's job to negotiate division, we have to ensure the processes are there, and that we represent the interests of the people we service, and that the most critical point to me is, that we get to division together in one piece, still working together, because we have relationships to maintain, resources to share, and even with a line there, we are still are going to have many, many common issues. So I look forward to moving on in this process, and I look forward to the west to be playing a much stronger and more active role in this process. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have comments in regard to Footprints in New Snow 2, as well as, comments in regard to Partnerships for a New Beginning. Mr. Chairman, I have concerns about this government working against the intended end results of Footprints 2. By that, I mean there are some programs or cuts to programs, cuts to staff, cuts to or establishment of regional levels of board that seem to be contradictory to what is suggested in Footprints 2. Personally, I would favour that we would somehow

work towards making it easier for the Nunavut government to actually be established and in place by 1999, by perhaps following closer to what Footprints 2 suggests. I realize that we have made commitments towards balancing the budget, but I am not sure that I would favour balancing the budget as a priority over establishing and working towards Footprints 2. I appreciate that this is kind of contradictory to each other, these two items. But I think that we are going to have to try to work towards how we can address that issue.

I believe strongly that the Nunavut people have the right to determine their own style and form of government structure. I think that we should, if at all possible, work towards assisting them in this. I am not in favour of making expenditures that would, in the end, see the Nunavut government have to undo or redo what we, in fact, did for them. Sometimes, if you look at it, one document suggests that they need 580 positions down there in Nunavut. On the other hand, we see ourselves laying off staff. It almost looks like it is one working against the other. I would like to see that addressed by our government. I am not sure that we can do it, but possibly, at least we should get some indication from the government that they did try to accommodate Footprints 2 as much as possible, and still have a balanced budget.

My other concern in regards to Footprints 2, is that, I am hoping that the Finance Minister of this government would work towards some way of addressing the incremental and transition costs that are associated with this document. That way, we can cut down any possibility of animosity or east versus west in this House. Because, definitely it would happen if we do not have that particular funding identified.

In regards to Partnerships in a New Beginning, along with everybody else, I realize that this is not the end result of this effort. But at the same time, there must be some weight placed on what this document does reflect up to now. From my perspective, this document is a reflection of all the distrust between all the native groups and the non-aboriginals. It reflects the fact that the native groups see themselves as having to have this type of government in order to protect themselves from the non-aboriginals. I do not believe that this is related just to this era. It is related to how native people have been treated for a long time. It is going to take a major effort, not only on the part of this government, but on the part of the native groups and the federal government, to address this situation.

Because, like it or not, the federal government has to realize that they in fact, went a long ways towards instigating this whole process, and distrust amongst the people, by not having the proper safeguards there in the first place. As a matter of fact, this all leads to the native people establishing land claims to protect themselves. I believe that if the end result of this document or this effort is going to be long serving, and serve the territories for a long time, I come back to my same statement that I made last spring, that is, there can only be one type of document that could actually treat everybody equally, and that document would have to colour blind.

You cannot have special rights in order for everybody to feel equally represented, and equal opportunities. The federal government, I believe, is responsible for addressing the distrust between the two groups, and I believe that particular thing has to be addressed separately from a constitution. I do not believe it should be reflected in the constitution. It is a nice effort, and this would be a nice thought that if we could do this, but I think that by the time we have come up with that form of document, we will be somewhere in the year 2050 before we ever have a document that would reflect the trust that is needed.

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My other comment is in regards to the process leading up to the development of this Partnership in New Beginnings. I must say that when we had the presentation last summer, or last fall, in the Great Hall here, I was very disappointed to see no reflection of the fact that the Inuvialuit were a partner to this group. The Inuvialuit do not live in teepees. There was no reflection at all of the Inuvialuit culture in the presentation last fall. None. Yet, we own one-fifth of this new territory. There was no reflection of that. More care should be taken in the future, because it could very well reflect on us, as to how we will be treated in the future, if you do not respect us enough to show a reflection of us at those presentations. We expect that is how we will be treated in the future. I think maybe it was just an oversight, but it is a serious oversight. I am also a little disappointed that Partnerships in a New Beginning was not translated into Inuktitut, to allow Nunavut people to make comments towards the thing, the same as we make comments towards Footprints 2. If it is not translated into Inuktitut, we cannot expect them to be able to read it. I am a little disappointed in that fact.

I have worked towards the eventual establishment of some form of constitution that, hopefully, we will input

into making by the time our term is up, rather than the federal government doing it for us, but at the present time, I do not believe that with the present attitude of the present members, we are ever going to get towards that goal. I do not like hearing comments, whether they are in public or in private, that the quicker Nunavut is gone, the better. Because I believe that we are going to be the next one, the Inuvialuit will probably be the next ones. I do not like hearing those comments. They do not do anything towards making us work together. I think that with a more serious and more trustworthy approach to this whole thing, rather than poking a poke to the native groups, we could probably get somewhere. On the other hand, I believe also that the native groups have to realize that they do not own this territory any more in total. In the past, we did. But we cannot bring back the past, we have to deal in today's issues, and today's reality is that we are also populated by non-aboriginals. We have to take that into consideration if we are going to have a new constitution.

I am disappointed with the amount of money that is being spent on this document, knowing that it did not have much of a future. I would have hoped that the money would have been better spent. I hope I am not reflecting on any particular MLA or minister. I just feel that in the time frame, the amount of rushing that went on, we were put into a situation where we had to come up with something fast, and we, therefore, came up with a document that we knew the public could not support. I must say I am disappointed in that manner. But I am in favour of working towards an end result, and hopefully, this time the federal government will see fit to come in at an early stage, and actually work with us, not leave it us totally to draw up a constitution. I think they should be working with us to draw up a constitution that would serve all the people of the territories, including Nunakput. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. I hear no direct question for the honourable member for Nunakput, so I will recognize Mr. Ootes. We have Mr. Ootes, and Mr. Enuaraq. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My comments are to do with Footprints 2 to start with today. I had the privilege at one time of working with John Amagoalik and Peter Ernerk, today's commissioners of the Nunavut Implementation Commission. That was some years ago, and for a number of years. I admire what they

and their fellow commissioners have produced, the documents called Footprints in New Snow, and Footprints 2. This particular report is addressed to the Honourable Ron Irwin, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, and to our Premier Don Morin, and to the President of Nunavut Tungavik Incorporated, Jose Kusugak. It asks for a response from those agencies to its report. I would like to quote a couple of areas from that report.

"Their respective responsibilities and roles of the Government of Canada, the GNWT, and NTI, in relation to the creation of Nunavut, do not exist in isolation." The report further states "until April 1, 1999, the legislature and Government of the NWT, have broad-based legislative, financial and administrative responsibilities with respect to all residents of the N.W.T., of Nunavut, and the western region alike. In addition to its overall responsibilities, the GNWT has specific duties under the Nunavut Act."

One of the duties the Government of the Northwest Territories has is responding to Footprints 2. In that regard, Cabinet needs to have input from members of this Legislative Assembly. I am going to address that input, and also try, through questions a little later on, to seek what the position and viewpoints of this government is in certain areas. The creation of Nunavut, and the creation of a new territory here in the west, is a given. It is a done deal through the Nunavut Act, and thus will come about on April 1, 1999. The Nunavut Implementation Commission calls for an implementation period of April 1st, 1998 to April 1st, 2000, and I agree with that. There are a number of areas of concern.

Let me deal here now with the human resources area. I believe that the Government of the Northwest Territories has an obligation to protect the employment of existing staff. I would support the GNWT if it takes this stand. It is my belief that a strong civil service will be the key to the successful creation of Nunavut. New leaders have big jobs to do, and a short time to do it in, such as, electing a legislature, setting up priority policies, and laws, and they have day to day management that may detract from the priorities. It is in the interest of new governments to keep the civil service in tact as much as possible, so they do not get held up in details. Unfortunately, we are undertaking division at a time of uncertainty. Capable and qualified individuals fear their jobs will disappear through, either cuts or the insecurity of transfer or possible transfer to the new territorial government Nunavut. They have few incentives to remain in the jobs they now hold. Not

many people are aware of the principles articulated in Footprints 2 that current employees should be given the opportunity to remain in their positions with the new government. We should acknowledge this section and show people the process in respecting their concerns. We should also form a statement to provide a level of assurance to people who feel their jobs are in jeopardy, to ensure their concerns are not being ignored. Further, Nunavut has ambitious long term targets for Inuit in its civil service, about 80 percent of jobs. Existing staff can play an important role in training those new staff especially in management positions. We have many precedents for developing such a statement:

A)The Working Toward 1999 report by the Territorial government noted that uncertainty could lead to loss of capable staff.

B)The 1992 plebiscite of boundary said that division would occur with respect to the employment status and job

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preferences of Territories government employees that was the 1992 plebiscite.

The need for consistency in staffing has been recognized throughout the process. We should not abandon it now. People need assurances about the future otherwise they may not stick around during important transition periods. Existing employees have a great deal to offer. They can be responsible in their future roles as trainers and, as experience has shown, experience is the best teacher. It is grass roots wisdom. Some government employees may be unwilling or unable to move. People who cannot or will not move to the new government should be treated with respect. Some may assume their resistance to change is based not on wanting to move to Nunavut. This is wrong. Perhaps many people will not want to move for economic or family reasons, such as mortgages, commitments here in the community that they presently live in, kids in school at critical years, health and family issues. It should be noted, for example, that for those people in Yellowknife, it is becoming extremely hard to sell houses, it is becoming much more difficult in our community. Further division is something that is being thrust on the employees. It has nothing to do with willingness or ability to work. It deals with matters beyond the control of the individuals.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to end my statement there. I have further statements to make and later I would like to raise some questions in regard to the human resources side. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Chairman, perhaps I believe there are others who wish to speak and after that I will respond if the members so wish. At least initially to the comments on Footprints 2 and, I believe, Mr. Antoine is prepared to respond to the document on the new working relationship. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we agree then we will allow the general comments and at the end of the general comments the two respective ministers will respond? Agreed. Thank you. I have Mr. Enuaraq. Thank you.

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translator) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a brief comment. When we met in Iqaluit just recently, the Inuit leaders were happy with the discussion that was taking place and, I agree, prior to April 1, 1999 the Government of the Northwest Territories could change and, Mr. Chairman, I would also like to say regarding the male and female members of the Legislative Assembly, I would just like to express that, if there are more women in the Legislative Assembly I think I would like to see more women in the Assembly because we know, but we would like to get response from the federal government in Nunavut. When we have Nunavut government I would prefer that there were more women in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Are there other general comments on promising a new beginning Footprints 2 the recent planning western constitution development from the membership of the Committee of the Whole? Mr. O'Brien. Thank you.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I will be brief as I have addressed this document in my member's statement this week. Just to reiterate, I strongly support the

document. My primary concern is in reference to the decentralized jobs the residents of Nunavut are all waiting for and hoping for. These are much needed jobs and, I believe, we are all aware this is contingent upon successful negotiations with the federal minister the Honourable Martin regarding the results of our gross expenditure base and how well we do in this area.

Reference my comments earlier, I am suggesting that it would be possible for the minister to consider taking a member from the east and the west along with him during these very serious and critical discussions. I was pleased to hear the other day the minister of Finance provide a level of comfort that indicated that the loss of jobs that we are experiencing now in the GNWT and the future loss of jobs will not affect the number of jobs that will be available or forthcoming once Nunavut and division occur. I will end with saying that I also support the gender issue and really do not have any difficulty with it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are discussing all the four items all together but how you want to address one item that is your prerogative. General comments. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be responding to both documents. I look at both the western part of the territory and Nunavut and I see on a map a line drawn. But when you look at the people and the land itself there is no physical line. I hope when all this process is over, and at the end of the day, the people will still continue to work together, to cooperate, to visit and share their experiences as they have in the past. Although I find that it is important that governments have policies and procedures and a structure that will help them do business in the new territory, my concern goes to the people. When this is done and the snow settles, instead of dust I guess, that the programs and services available to the people of the territories would be equal or better to what we have today. I would be very disappointed to find out we have gone through a lot of time and effort and funding to find out at the end of the day that we have not changed anything. That we are still troubled by the way we do business. That we are not serving the people to the best of their needs and our abilities. I think as the days to 1999 shorten we should do all we can to make the realities happen of two territories in the best way possible.

What I said in the House before my concern goes to the people because it is the people that make our country our territory and our communities and the government is set up to serve those people. So, I think it is very important as the negotiation process begins and as we start dealing with matters that come before us as legislators that we take into consideration very seriously the impact our decisions will have on the people of the territories. I would wish best to both sides that the processes that they are developing will truly make lives and the quality of life better come 1999. I think it is very important that we do not focus on east west and what we will try and get out of it at the end of the day. That is important, mind you, but I think we need to focus as one territory to the federal government and state to them that it is very important to us a one territory that is being split into two that they accept the responsibility of the cost involved of creating two territories. That we do not get caught in a battle between east versus west and how one makes due with one thing and another makes due without.

There is definite concern in the communities, especially my community Inuvik, of what will happen come 1999. What

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service will be left, What will we be able to build as a government and those are important. But are they more important than what we have left at the end of the day, our ability to get on with our lives? We are at a very important crossroads. It is necessary to deal with these things. And some will be very difficult decisions to make. But I would encourage my colleagues that we work hard to achieve the best results for the people. Not necessarily for the governments. Sometimes what is best for a government is not so good for the people.

I look at the change that has happened from my parents in the early days of Inuvik. The changes that happened in the short period of time to where I am sitting today. That the government that made many changes, and it was the people that adapted. It was the people that made communities what they were. So I would encourage members here as we go through these number of days ahead of us towards division, to put the people first and foremost in front of things we set up. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Erasmus. Thank you.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My comments are in regards to Footprints 2. I have the strongest feeling that Nunavut people should be able to create their government the way they want without influence and pressure from people in the west. However, I have to say that there is a reservation in my statement in that my statement goes as far as it does not harm the west and the capability of the west having a good government and maintaining the same level of programs and services as now.

I agree with most of what Mr. Miltenberger had indicated at the beginning. And the fact that we need a western presence at the table when people are discussing formula financing. There has to be fair and equitable finances for both territories. Also, we need a western presence when we are discussing division of assets and liabilities. And when we are talking about Workers' Compensation Board and NWT Power Corporation and Labour Relations. We also need western representation at the CCON table. The committee that looks at relations and impacts on the west.

At the same time, while I agree that the east should be entitled to form their government the way they want, we have to ensure that the present GNWT employees that are working in Nunavut and on areas related to Nunavut, I suppose they are primarily in Yellowknife, but those affected employees must be treated fairly and equitably. Many of them today, as has been stated by other members, are quite concerned about the fact that they are going to lose their job. We have to make sure they are treated fairly and equitably. Whether they are willing to move to the east or not for whatever reason, we must treat them fairly. We have to ensure they are treated fairly.

As has also been indicated earlier, we need to ensure that there are incremental costs and transitional costs for both new territories. This government is currently tracking incremental costs that are being spent for the creation of Nunavut. I believe it is somewhere in the millions now. I stand to be corrected. There has been nowhere near that amount spent on the west. We have no indication that the federal government is going to repay those dollars. Yet, we are very reluctant to spend money for the work that has to be done in the west. We are talking about fairness and equity. Well let's be fair. Let's be equitable. We have to spend money in the west as well. The Nunavut people want to have a 50 percent Inuit staff on their territorial civil service within a certain time frame. I

believe we need that same commitment in the west. I believe that there was a commitment to that some years ago. But there really has not been much work done in that area. And now with the confusion I suppose that has been created because of the fact that we are trying to create two new territories as well as being in a deficit for the first time, I think that the aboriginal content of our civil service is going down. And it is probably happening without us really knowing it because of all these cuts that are happening.

I have to admit I have not looked at the new stats to see where we are at and probably nobody even knows because of all the different things that are happening from day to day. But I think we have to seriously look at that as well. With that I still believe we have to work towards a balanced budget this next year. And I firmly believe, aside from my reservations that it not affect the western government's ability to provide the same level of programs and services, that the Nunavut government should be created by the Nunavut people themselves. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We have Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to preface my remarks by saying that I have a lot of appreciation for this document that was produced, Footprints 2. I believe it is a very concise document and I think that the people of Nunavut should be proud of the work that has gone into it and the staff and the team that they have brought together to produce and approve this document. A couple of minor concerns I have with them and one of my main concerns with the division of the NWT is, what happens with our employees?

We have employees with a wealth of background and experience. As we look towards division, we have been talking about dividing the assets and liabilities of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Without question, Mr. Chairman, the most valuable assets this government have are not the buildings and the vehicles. The most valuable assets are the people who work for this government and the corporate memory which they bring to the programs and services. We cannot replace their knowledge of how these programs and services have evolved over time. To better meet the needs of all northerners, if we really want both new territories to get off to a good

start, our people are the best things we can share with the two new governments.

In previous transfers, we have always recognized the value of transferring employees along with the programs and the knowledge they bring with them. This was certainly the case in the transfer of health and forestry from the federal governments. The people of Nunavut are showing an appreciation of that corporate knowledge by suggesting that there must be opportunities for the existing employees working in Nunavut. These are the people they know. And they have an appreciation for their work. The headquarters employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories also have valuable background and knowledge that will be a benefit to the people of both new governments. Just as we are willing to share the expertise of organizations like the Worker's Compensation and the Power Corporation, we are also willing to share the expertise of the headquarters employees.

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We know that the politicians provide the direction for any government. The headquarters employees will do an excellent job of carrying out the policies and direction of which ever new government they happen to be working for. Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut members of this House have had the chance to work with many headquarters employees. I am sure if someone was to survey these members, they would find that the Nunavut members appreciate the efforts of these employees and their efforts and abilities. These members can recognize the valuable contribution the GNWT headquarters employees could make to establishing Nunavut. Some suggest that there will be a blood bath over the division of assets and liabilities. The fact is, Mr. Chairman, when we look at this question in greater detail, there is and will not be anything to fight over. As regards formula financing, as long as this new western territory as it is at the table, along with the government representative, the Government of the Northwest Territories represented by Mr. Todd, and reps from Nunavut, I see no problem in that regard either. Mr. Chairman, I support Nunavut in their desire to form their own government and as I say with the reservations and concerns I have in the dealing with employees and how both new territories will be funded, I would wish Nunavut all the very best and in the forming of their new territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ootes, general comments.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Chairman, I mentioned earlier that I had broken my comments into two areas and I wonder if it is appropriate for me to continue with the second part of that now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we have any other members who have not spoken yet to items on the table who wish to speak now? If not we allow Mr. Ootes to carry on from here. Carry on, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Chairman, again I would like to address the creation of the two new territories and the document Footprints 2. The creation of our two territories provides an unparalleled opportunity for all of us to be innovative and creative. Nowhere else in Canada has there ever been such an opportunity for governments to take a fresh new approach to delivery of services and programs. I have several suggestions and comments to make. And I will do that through headings.

Number 1 heading is: We must maximize transitional arrangements for division of the Northwest Territories. Section 7(1) of the Nunavut political accord signed between the Government of the Northwest Territories, Canada and the TFN on October 30, 1992, set out that the Nunavut government shall be established with a core administrative capacity in the following areas: Legislative Assembly and Executive Council; Finance; Justice; Personnel; Public Works; and Government Services; Municipal Affairs; and Adult Education. The Nunavut political accord also sets out that other areas of administrative responsibility which are not part of the core administrative capacity of the Nunavut government shall be provided through intergovernmental agreements or contracts with appropriate governments, institutions and non government bodies.

The present agenda of the government and Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories is already crowded with demanding issues such as financial restraint; government reorganization; community wellness; community empowerment; and responding to major resource development initiatives and other pressing issues. There is now very limited time available for planning and implementing of

division. Therefore, in order to allow existing human and other resources to be devoted to the core essential services required to be in place for April 1, 1999, wherever possible arrangements should be considered which will allow certain existing institutions and services to continue after division in order to allow maximum effort to be devoted to the core new institutions and services. Therefore, the GNWT should consider it necessary and desirable to agree on those short term transitional arrangements which will ensure that less critical functions can continue to be delivered by contract through devolution or other innovative transition arrangements. These arrangements can be designed for the long term or to be phased out once new governments are able to establish their own capacities to deliver such services.

My heading number 2, we must consider economies of scale wherever possible. Reduced populations of the new jurisdictions of Nunavut and the new western territory in a difficult financial fiscal climate may well mean that stand alone institutions or services may be feasible or viable for either of the new governments. The present NWT is already too small in some ways to justify some of the institutions which have been developed at great expense and risk to serve a very small and scattered population. The globalization of the world economy has meant that corporations, government agencies, and governments are increasingly seeking new partnerships, alliances and mergers so as to be more efficient and effective in communications and service delivery.

The creation of Nunavut should also be seen as potentially providing many opportunities for continued cooperation and collaboration for the mutual benefit of their citizens, businesses and governments of the two new territories. Many existing institutions and organizations may not have sufficient size or impetus to continue or it would cost significantly more if they were limited to serving much smaller populations of Nunavut or the western territory.

Therefore the government of the NWT should consider the following: where the continued existence of an institution or an organization cannot be justified in each of the two new territories after division due to the loss of economies of scale or related efficiencies, every consideration should be given to making innovative, flexible arrangements which will allow the organization to continue to serve the larger population of two new territories after division.

A third heading, we must seek shared resources wherever possible. Nunavut and the new western

territory will have small populations in the initial years. Many organizations, which could be created by virtue of Section 29 of the Nunavut Act may struggle because not enough work is there to do to justify their existence. The reduced populations of the new jurisdictions of Nunavut and the western territory in difficult fiscal climate, may well mean that stand alone institutions or service may not be feasible or viable for either of the new governments.

For example, the Power Corporation has said that power rates will have to rise in both the eastern and western territories if they are put to the additional expense of establishing new companies and separate head quarter administrations. The PUB will require that these costs be borne by customers through increased power rates. It should be fairly obvious that

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the cost of establishing a new workers' compensation board will be staggering. The one corporation would lose economies of scale if it is split into two. Wherever possible opportunities should be sought to continue to share resources after division. This could be mutually beneficial. It will most likely be more appropriate and sensitive if delivered by fellow northern government then from the south. Therefore, we should seek shared resources wherever possible. Creative ways should be explored to continue such organizations within two new territorial governments wherever possible.

Heading 4 and my final heading, division should not preclude the continuation of service arrangements which make sense for logistic and historic reasons. Due to our small, remote, scattered population and limited financial resources and basic infrastructure, and because there is a long tradition in the north of communities making arrangements to have access to facilities and services in neighbouring jurisdictions, for example, hospital services in Quebec and Ontario being available to Baffin residents. Hospital services in Alberta being available to western arctic residents. This axiom also applies to the care of the infirm, disabled, access to correctional facilities and to educational facilities, and it applies to people from other parts of the territory to such services as the Stanton Regional Hospital, the Kitikmeot Boarding Home in Yellowknife, correctional institute, alcohol and treatment facilities, both in Nunavut and the western territory and access to Aurora college programs and services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. I have eight minutes left before we close. I would like to recognize Mr. Ningark since he has not spoken yet.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In respect of the allotted time for the particular issue, I will be very brief. Mr. Chairman, how one behaves at home in the family setting, I think outlines that person's character. In the area of gender equality which I have not spoken as chairperson of Nunavut caucus, I will speak to very briefly. At home I regard my partner in this case, my wife, as a full partner. I encourage her to run in the community organization, Hamlet council, education council. In fact, I support her when she is running for different seats in the community. She is a member of the Hamlet Council in Pelly Bay. She's a member of the local education council in Pelly Bay. She is a member, executive member of the Kitikmeot regional council that is. She is also a member of Nunavut social development council. I would on the gender equality, that is my opinion, Mr. Chairman, is that I think the women should be recognized in the new Nunavut territory. We should do everything we can to make sure that they are part of the public service. How are we going to address that is they should have a seat in Nunavut government. I think it is still under discussion. But if the majority of the people of Nunavut wants to guarantee seats for women in Nunavut area, I would embrace that scenario Mr. Chairman. As we are running out of time, I will stop here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. We have five minutes left for response. Mr. Todd or Mr. Antoine would you like to respond at this time? We have five minutes left for a response. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Would you like to respond in the little time we have left?

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Mr. Chairman, thank you. Mr. Chairman we have just a few minutes left. I think to do justice, we should think about doing this tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

I would like to make a motion to report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour to report progress. All those opposed. Motion is carried.

-- Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I will now rise and report progress.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

The House will come back to order. More items, 20, reports of the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Speaker, your committee had been considering Tabled documents 4,5 and Ministers' Statements 5 and 6. I would like to report progress. And Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Steen, seconded by Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called all those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

-- Carried

MR. SPEAKER:

Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, Orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, the meeting of the Ordinary Members' Caucus at 11:30 tomorrow morning. Orders of the day for Saturday, November 30, 1996.

1. Prayer

2. Ministers' Statements

3. Members' Statements

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4. Returns To Oral Questions

5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

6. Oral Questions

7. Written Questions

8. Returns to Written Questions

9. Replies to Opening Address

10. Petitions

11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motions

15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

- Bills 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Ministers' Statements 1, 5, and 6

- Tabled Documents 4, 5, and 13

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 1

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. By the authority given to the Speaker by Motion 3-13(4) the House will sit tomorrow, Saturday, November 30, 1996, at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT