



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Jim Antoine, Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, Mr. Barnabas, Honourable Charles Dent, Mr. Enuaraq, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Honourable Samuel Gargan, Mr. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Ningark, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Honourable John Todd, Honourable Maniok Thompson

ITEM 1: PRAYER

Oh God, may your spirit and guidance be in us as we work for the benefit of all our people for peace and justice in our land and for the constant recognition of the dignity and aspirations of those whom we serve. Amen.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Good morning. I wish to inform the House that today is a very special day for one of our Members. The youngest Member in the House, the Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas, is a year older today. Happy Birthday, Mr. Barnabas.

-- Applause

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Happy Birthday!

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 28-13(4): Aurora College Nursing Graduates

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow history will be marked in the Northwest Territories. On January 25, 1997, the first graduates from the Aurora College Nursing Program will receive their diplomas. What started out as a dream in the early 1970s, has become a reality. We now have northerners who have been able to receive a quality nursing education program right here in the Northwest Territories.

The Department of Health and Social Services is proud to have been a partner with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Aurora College and the Northwest Territories Registered Nurses' Association in this program's development.

These nursing graduates began their first year of academic preparation in 1993 through the Nursing Access Program. They have studied diligently through two additional years of nursing education and have completed a four-month senior practicum in an acute care hospital in the Northwest Territories.

Most recently, on January 22, they wrote the national standardized exams of the Canadian Nurses Association Testing Service. Successful completion of these exams will qualify them to be licensed as registered nurses.

Developing a northern workforce continues to be a priority of this government. With the graduation of these 11 northerners, we move one step closer to that goal. It is the beginning of a northern registered nurses workforce that reflects the population it serves - Northerners caring for Northerners.

The Department of Health and Social Services is committed to helping NWT nursing graduates become integrated into the workforce. To that end, a Nurse Mentorship Program has been developed and is ready to be launched with this graduating class.

The Nurse Mentorship Program will provide an opportunity for new NWT nurse graduates to gain important work experience under the guidance of an experienced nurse acting as their mentor. It is a unique way for nurses to help nurses.

I would like to recognize the first graduates of the Aurora College Nursing Program: from Yellowknife: Ms Lisa Bossert, Ms Maggie Jacobs, Ms Deana Kobasiuk, Ms Lester Maw, Ms Jennifer Menzies and Ms Jennifer Tweed; from Inuvik, Ms Karin Binder; from Iqaluit, Ms Jean Furtan and Ms Cate Lauzon; from Fort Smith, Ms Dawn Lappin; and from Cambridge Bay, Ms Kim Quilluniqu.

On behalf of all my honourable colleagues, I would like to salute the Class of 1996 and wish them well in making the transition from student to registered nurse. Congratulations! Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Minister's Statement 29-13(4): Government Response to Amalgamation Discussion (Emergency Statement)

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the government has reviewed and considered the recommendation from the Standing Committee on Government Operations to defer the amalgamation of the NWT Housing Corporation with the Departments of Transportation, and Public Works and Services.

In response, let me start by saying that, as a government, we recognize the time and consideration the Committee put into reviewing this document. In discussing the report tabled in the House earlier this week, we were pleased to see that the Committee agrees the proposed amalgamation would, if accepted, take us one step closer to creating a more efficient and effective government. We are also pleased to receive comments and alternate options from them on how we could reduce duplication and improve coordination among the three departments. And finally, we agreed and acknowledge along

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with the Committee that division is indeed quickly approaching.

But while we all appear to agree on these fundamental points, overall what the Committee is telling us are all of the reasons why we cannot, or should not, proceed with this amalgamation. Therefore, I think it is important at this time to take a few moments to revisit why this amalgamation proposal was put on the table in the first place.

This initiative is not simply one aimed at cutting the budget, or creating a more efficient and effective government structure. While it is noteworthy that this amalgamation would produce a leaner, less expensive government structure, and it would create cost savings -- minimal at first, but up to \$3 to \$5 million a year beginning in 1998-99 -- the amalgamation proposal is really aimed at two key things.

First, it was an attempt to better meet and serve the needs of our clients --the people of the north. What we who are in government often forget is that the people who need to access the services do not care about how the services are managed, or who

manages them. What people care about is that what they need is available to them when they need it. When you go to a grocery store, do you really think or care about how the food got to the store, about the person who stocked the shelf, about the person who manages the store, or about how that store was able to buy that product in the first place?

The second key reason behind this amalgamation is preparation for division. It is about laying the groundwork for the future of two new and progressive governments, and about improving financial and structural situations that they would inherit as part of our legacy to them. It would be an easy solution to put off any new initiative until 1999 -- to push this kind of difficult decision onto the elected officials for the two new governments, in which, if I can remind everyone here, people in this House may play a role. But this government believes that would be a step backwards. It would mean turning our backs on a situation we could fix today, while it is still one problem for one government, not a problem for two governments.

In the government's review of the comments from the Standing Committee on Government Operations, we recognize we do not have the support to fulfil this positive and productive initiative. That is to say the least, disappointing. However, in an attempt to work with our colleagues in the House, we are prepared -- based upon the input provided -- to defer this initiative. But let me be clear. While this government is not going ahead with amalgamation at this time, we firmly believe it was necessary and right for the people of the north today, and in the future.

This amalgamation was a good idea in that it was aimed directly at improving services and programs for the people who elected us to serve. But as the Premier has stated many times, this government also believes in working together with all of the Members in this House to best serve the people of the north. This is what consensus government is all about. Therefore, we are prepared to work with you on this issue to help you see the long-term benefits for the north, and to see beyond the short-term workload and challenges it may cause.

Mr. Speaker, let me remind Members of the Premier's comments earlier this week, and in fact, over the past year. Good effective leadership is about making the hard decisions. About accepting the short term pain for the long term benefits of change such as this. We have the opportunity to improve this situation now. An opportunity which will diminish over time as we move

closer to division, and as we develop a more complicated set of problems.

Given the lack of support shown in this House, we cannot proceed with this initiative. If Members do not believe amalgamation offers us a good opportunity, we invite them to offer us other ideas that will address the issues this amalgamation proposal is designed to address. In our minds, postponing this kind of decision, and making it the responsibility of a future government is not good government. Nor is it what we were elected to do. In fact, it is the opposite.

For the record, Mr. Speaker, this government believes the amalgamation initiative was the right thing to do. While the process may need some fine tuning, the outcome is vital. It is our hope for the next two years that we will still be able to make decisions that will improve the quality of life and the quality of services this government offers to people no matter what part of this territory they call home. How many more issues are we going to shift to the plates of the two new governments, rather than do the jobs we were elected to do? Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Acknowledgement of Timely Response on Amalgamation

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to briefly thank the Deputy Premier for his timely response to this issue of amalgamation.

-- Applause

MR. MILTENBERGER:

As he noted, we have had to make a lot of hard decisions since the start of the 13th. Assembly, but in taking the whole political picture into consideration, it does not seem to be the appropriate time for this particular initiative. The Minister and his staff have done a lot of hard work, and there is validity to some of the issues raised by the Minister, and I would just like to thank him for his timely, temperate, and

political response, and that of the government. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement On Accident on Highway No. 3

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find it rather ironic that just days after our Grand Chief, myself, and our honourable colleague, Mr. Ootes brought forward our concerns regarding the safety of No. 3 Highway between Rae and Yellowknife, I find myself again standing in the House to

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inform our Members that last night one transport truck travelling this road did in fact go into the ditch and flip over onto its top, resulting in depositing some of its contents onto the lake.

I hope that the Minister was informed of this matter, and that the content was not dangerous goods material. I do not have any details of this accident. However, it is important to know that, hopefully, we will be able to prevent any further accidents. I also hope that the Department of Transportation is informed that these type of goods are travelling on this road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Failure to Address Mackenzie Delta Constituency Issues

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the 13th Assembly I brought a lot of issues to the attention of the Assembly concerning Fort McPherson water supply and water treatment plant. The question of funding for the tourism training group, also, the development of social programs to the NWT residents, core funding to the TI'oondih Healing camp, the Chief Julius School, and funding the Beaufort/Delta legal services clinic, selling of staff houses, the relationship between Aboriginal and Treaty groups, and also the transfer of

the Joe Greenland Centre, the question of lay-offs in regards to affirmative action, the question of building a community correction facility in regards to Aklavik, and the Knute Lang camp.

Mr. Speaker, we raise these questions not because we like to talk. We raise them because they are concerns of our constituents and the people we represent. I do not find it helpful standing up here time and time again asking this government to support us in the initiatives or concerns from our communities. Yet, I find myself today dealing with all these issues not being addressed.

In regards to the Fort McPherson water treatment plant, there has been a study, yet there has not been any outcome from the study. The whole question about funding, in regards to the Chief Julius school and the gymnasium. The whole question in regards to the Tl'ooondih Healing camp. To date, none of these issues have been addressed, yet this Session is coming to a close.

How many times, Mr. Speaker, do we have to stand up in this House and repeat ourselves? Yet, this government is saying, we are trying to help the communities that need the support the most. Yet, my riding has the lowest per capita programs delivered, compared to other regions. Nothing is being done. When is this government going to do something about our concerns that we address in this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Evictions Policy in Rankin Inlet

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in this Chamber I raised the issue concerning the families in the community of Rankin Inlet that were evicted from their homes in the dead of winter. Mr. Speaker, I believe that we all agree that we all must live up to our responsibilities whether it be paying rent on time ...

AN HON. MEMBER:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd, your point of order.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My honourable colleague indicated that families have been evicted from homes in Rankin Inlet. It is my understanding from discussions yesterday with my community, which is my constituency, that they have not been evicted. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd, I cannot make any ruling on your point of order until I hear the statement. I have not heard the statement to make any type of ruling. Mr. O'Brien, continue.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that we all agree that people must be responsible for their rents and other associated costs to which they have agreed. The intent of my statement yesterday was to indicate the fact of the timing when people may be evicted from their homes. I think we all agree that it should not take place in the dead of winter. By the same token, I am not saying that it is appropriate or proper for people not to pay their rents or whatever the cause of the evictions were.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report today that I had a call early this morning from Mr. Peter Ernerk from Rankin, stating that the families that were asked to leave their homes have been returned and special arrangements have been made. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd, do you still wish to make a point of order?

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, it is my understanding and I could check Hansard, Mr. Speaker, that my honourable colleague indicated that these families have been evicted. I think that is inaccurate and I just want to make my position clear.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd, you do not have a point of order. I believe this statement does affect all the people in the north. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement On Revenue Generation Opportunities

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the Minister of Finance about possible revenue generation opportunities. Mr. Speaker, the Minister, in response to my question said no, no, no. Mr. Speaker, it is about time, as a territory, that we developed a scheme, a plan, a way of alleviating dependence on the federal treasury. We have to broaden our economic base, create jobs and opportunities. Taxes are seen as a negative way to generate revenue. The sin taxes on cigarettes and alcohol have wide support. Introduction of Lotto 649, for example, put a part of the revenue generation back into the coffers of the NWT by the Western Lottery Corporation.

The Minister of Finance should look at the introduction of VLTs or Video Lottery Terminals. The cash flow from these items

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as, demonstrated in Alberta, has had significant revenue generation for that jurisdiction. Now, Mr. Speaker, are we going to sit on our hands, worry and fret, or are we going to get proactive and bring in the extra revenue and target it to the social programs area? How many Delta Houses or continued lay-offs will we have to go through before other options are contemplated by this government? Mr. Speaker, the budget of Mr. Todd will be brought down next week. Will it give northerners hope for the future? Will it demonstrate some advancement on the revenue side of government?

Last night, Mr. Speaker, I sat alone in my small apartment and asked myself, why am I here in Yellowknife? Is the political life worth the sacrifices and petty sniping that occurs from across the hall. I quickly came to the decision that I was here to make a difference for my children and my family. I do not want to contemplate a future for them in the region of the country that will inherit a large debt and have no way to pay for it.

On the eve of Mr. Todd's second budget, my wish is that we explore the revenue generation side of government. With less than 800 days before division, Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking. Tick, tick, tick. Mr. Todd is talking. Talk, talk, talk. Walk the walk, talk the

talk to our friend, the Finance Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Position on Gender Equality

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues this morning. As of today, I just want to make a point regarding our region of Baffin Island. I have gone to my constituency about gender equality, and so on. I just want to state further on this issue, regarding gender equality. I totally agree with gender equality. For example, there are numerous women in the workforce. I am very proud of them. Also, women are involved in issues for our future as government employees. If there is a misunderstanding on this issue, if women feel they are being excluded by me, that is not my intention. I just wanted to clarify that I fully support gender equality. Thank you very much. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas. Okay. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement On Acknowledgement of Northern Performers

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to today acknowledge the performing talent here in the Northwest Territories, and the CBC for helping to promote the many people that are so talented throughout the north, giving them the opportunity to be able to broadcast and spread word of their songs and entertainment.

This morning I was listening to the radio while I was shaving and Charlie Panagoniak came on with his very talented and uplifting song, Squirrels. To me it is uplifting, I do not understand Inuktitut, but it was a very uplifting, catchy tune. To me, it set the tone for the day, Mr. Speaker. I want to state that to all you people out there that perform, and to CBC, thank you for allowing our talented people to develop their talent.

Charlie Panagoniak dates back to the 1970s. All of us have heard of him before and have seen him entertain. He is a wonderful entertainer. Thank you very much, Charlie.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Concerns About Wildlife Research

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make a statement regarding our wildlife. I understand they are being researched. It has been ongoing. There are a few things I do not really agree with. They put animals to sleep prior to doing their research. There are numerous things that are connected to those proceedings. The main problem is the major reduction in our budget. They want to do further research on our game and wildlife. Back home, we depend on the wildlife. With the ongoing research, how are we going to preserve our wildlife, if there is going to be a major reduction in the budget in that area? I sympathize with those who are trying to keep up with their jobs, but we also have to survive on our food. I just want this to be for the research. Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Fairness in Government Programs and Reductions

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I was elected I told the people of Inuvik that I would come down and voice their concerns on fairness in the way the government operates. We have heard today, in some communities we have very little, and in some we have more than enough. It seems that we go around and we discuss, and we discuss some more. At the end of the day, we walk away feeling, what have we accomplished? I ask myself this question, time and time again.

Especially when we look at the upcoming budget. I hope we will address fairness in equity, because if what I am seeing is just the start of the 1997-98 business plan, the budget, I have grave concerns for the Inuvik and Delta region. I think as a government we have said we will treat people fairly. It is time we started putting some practise to our words. We need to let people see that it is going to happen, that we are looking out for the long term interests of the Territories. When the time of division comes, we will not have created communities that are lacking, that will have a very difficult time trying to continue on in the way that they have, not only become accustomed to but developed.

Inuvik, at one time, had a healthy, thriving private economy. I hope someday we will see that once again come north. But for now, we are heavily dependent on the government, and I hope this government would keep that in mind when making its decision of what it will do with its budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Effects of Division on Holman Island

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been over a year now since I addressed the concerns of Holman Island in regards to division and how division would effect that community. I brought this concern to the attention of the Premier over a year ago. To date, there is still no movement on the part of this government as regards to setting up a meeting in Holman Island that would address division.

I have seen, in the past year, some departments, including the Power Corporation, moving their services to Holman Island and to the Beaufort region. I am told that the police are in the process of moving to Inuvik the services for Holman Island. The people in Holman Island still request this meeting of high level officials to address the affect of division on Holman Island. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today I will be asking the Minister of Finance, who is in charge of the division committee as to what this government is doing towards that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Decision to Defer Amalgamation of Infrastructure Departments

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement is on the amalgamation of the infrastructure departments, the decision that Mr. Arlooktoo spoke of earlier today. Let me make this clear. I appreciate the fact that the government is willing to defer amalgamation, and are willing to work with us on this issue. However, I do not like the inference that I am not doing my duties by not agreeing to amalgamate these departments.

First of all, when I was elected I did not say that I was coming here to agree with everything that the government put forward. Secondly, I do not like the inaccuracies in the statement. The Deputy Premier suggests that the Committee agrees, the proposed amalgamation will, if accepted, take us one step closer to creating a more efficient and effective government.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, we have not had time to evaluate the amalgamation into the RWED department. We need that time, if we are going to amalgamate these other departments, to make sure we do not make the same mistakes. Mr. Speaker, I also firmly believe that good government is about maintaining stability and public confidence. That is what Government Operations committee is talking about. I would like to reiterate that I do appreciate the fact that the government is deferring the amalgamation and that they want to work with us, but I do not appreciate them putting words into the committee's mouths. So, I think for now, maybe, we will just agree that we disagree on what good government is. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Roland.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not had occasion very often, while sitting in the House, to recognize someone in the gallery, but today I would like to recognize my wife Shauna, who has come down to spend a couple of days with me.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the Chief from Tsiighetchic, who has come down with hat in hand, going to the different departments, hoping to get some money so that he can run his community, which presently is in the deficit, and projects are being hi-jacked and what not. Moris Blake, the Chief from Tsiighetchic.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 113-13(4): Process for Dealing with Members' Concerns

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Deputy Premier, Goo Arlooktoo, in regards to my opening statement to the whole question on when we make statements in this House or base quick questions to the different Ministers in regards to concerns raised by our constituency, what is this government doing to ensure that those concerns are being carried out by the different departments and also by this government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mahsi cho. The Deputy Premier, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 113-13(4): Process for Dealing with Members' Concerns

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the usual practices for Ministers, when asked by ordinary MLAs is that we do not have the answers in front of us or answers ready. We do have office staff, monitoring what is said in this House, and there is further research or other questions that need to be answered that we do not have the answers immediately. Those are taken to the departments. A lot of times, that is the case. Further research and further calls have to be made to the regions or the communities to see exactly what is going on. It depends on the situation.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 113-13(4): Process for Dealing with Members' Concerns

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the whole question of the review or process you use within Cabinet, what assurances do we have that our concerns will be taken seriously and addressed by this Cabinet?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 113-13(4): Process for Dealing with Members' Concerns

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker. I would like to share the memory that all the questions and concerns raised by MLAs are taken very seriously and taken as part of the consideration when we are making decisions. You have to remember that every single Minister in this House was elected by the Assembly, and is therefore accountable and answerable to this Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 113-13(4): Process for Dealing with Members' Concerns

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We raise these questions in consideration that these are concerns of our constituents that we represent. We were elected to come to this House to speak on behalf of the people we represent. That is why you have an opposition and have a government. The government does not sit there with the intention that they do best for the people they represent and forget us poor people on this side of the House that do not have that representation on that side of the House. I have raised many issues time and time again in this House, yet, nothing has been done. I raised the question about the water treatment plant in Fort McPherson. I am going to have the same concerns raising the same issues in this House, yet nothing is being done. I think there has to be a mechanism put in place by yourself as the Deputy Premier and the Premier to oversee that these concerns are carried out by the particular Ministers that are in place. And, if not, basically remove them or put them somewhere else.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 113-13(4): Process for Dealing with Members' Concerns

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the point the Member raised that I would agree with is that part of the reason we were elected is to represent our constituents on certain constituency issues. But it is also our responsibility to raise options and possible solutions when we raise a problem. Also at some times we look beyond our constituencies to see what is best for the entire territory and the public good.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 113-13(4): Process for Dealing with Members' Concerns

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just in closing, I would like to know if the Deputy Premier, on behalf of the

Premier, has some sort of a policy or mechanism in place to oversee cabinet to ensure that those questions that are asked by the Members in the House are carried out, and to ensure that there is a mechanism to monitor those questions once they are raised, and that there is a mechanism to check and ensure that they are carried out. Will you ensure me that is standard, that there is a document to ensure that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 113-13(4): Process for Dealing with Members' Concerns

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I can inform the Member that there is a mechanism to ensure that questions are answered. Questions that are raised in the House are answered to the Member, whether it is through written response or reply or in person. We do have the mechanism in place for that. Whether the response satisfies the person, that is something totally different. Individual Ministers have responsibilities with what goes on in their departments. Right now they have severe restrictions on spending. There is very little flexibility to move. There are two points. There is a mechanism to make sure that questions are answered but we can never guarantee that the answer that we give a Member is one that he or she likes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER:

What is your point of order?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Is there a policy in place, and can I get that policy? That was the question.

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MR. SPEAKER:

That is not a point of order. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 114-13(4): Utilidor System Billing Procedures

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question would be directed to the Minister responsible for NWT Power Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I have recently been contacted by concerned members of our community of Inuvik when it comes to the utilidor system, and the proposed rate changes for heating. Can the Minister inform me of any possible changes to the billing system to people who are hooked onto the high temp system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 114-13(4): Utilidor System Billing Procedures

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any immediate plans for changes in billing procedures for the utilidor. I do know that the Power Corporation has been working with town and GNWT officials to discuss the ownership and the continued operation of the utilidor. In terms of rate increases scheduled for that utilidor system, I would have to get back to the Member after seeking further information from the Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 114-13(4): Utilidor System Billing Procedures

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister give me a time line as to when he would be able to get this information back to me? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 114-13(4): Utilidor System Billing Procedures

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be able to provide the Member with the response to that information no later than Monday or Tuesday next week.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 115-13(4): Incidences of Child Burning

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in light of the recent tragedy in Tuk, and the previous situation in Iqaluit with the child who was severely burnt, what is the process from the Minister of Justice and Health, on these situations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Justice. Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 115-13(4): Incidences of Child Burning

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not certain of the thrust of the honourable Member's question. The unfortunate incidents have happened. There was the proper involvement with the incidents and the circumstances that led up to those tragic events that happened in both of those cases, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Picco, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 115-13(4): Incidences of Child Burning

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the concerns coming out of the Iqaluit incident was the situation regarding the Young Offenders' Act, and how the Act seems to be circumventing the situation in regards to the discipline, and so on, with this type of incident. My supplementary question to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Ng is, has the Minister been in contact with the federal authorities, about these problems that are seemingly present with the Young Offender's Act? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 115-13(4): Incidences of Child Burning

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no. The fact remains that the disciplinary action was not deemed as a priority. The priorities in this circumstance were to see that adequate treatment and counselling were available to the individuals involved in these circumstances, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 115-13(4): Incidences of Child Burning

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in a tragedy like this, it is very stressful and difficult on the front line staff. I wonder, has the Minister of Social Services directed, or sent out a directive, to his front line staff? Has the staff received extra training or counselling in this area?

MR. SPEAKER:

I agree with the Member's question, but I realize that Mr. Ng is the Minister of Justice, and he is also the Minister of Health and Social Services. If you are asking him as the Minister of Justice, then you have to continue in that line of questioning. If you change to the Minister of Health, then that is treated as a new question. Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 115-13(4): Incidences of Child Burning

MR. PICCO:

Thank you. Sometimes it gets kind of confusing which hat someone is wearing. Maybe, the Minister then, in my supplementary question, could tell me has he sent out any type of directive to his departmental staff on issues of this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 115-13(4): Incidences of Child Burning

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, I have not sent any directives out in this matter, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 115-13(4): Incidences of Child Burning

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a parent with three small children, I think this type of incident really hits home. I wonder if the Minister can inform the House then, if there has been no directive to his employees, will he be looking at working with his front line staff to give them some direction on what they should be doing to be proactive, and hopefully prevent another occurrence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 115-13(4): Incidences of Child Burning

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will not be putting forward any new directives, and putting policies into place that would change. I do not think that the matter in which we handle these types of situations, there are policies in place. Unfortunately, you cannot predict when these types of situations develop. You cannot predict the future, so we have to deal with them post-tragedy, post-incident, and I will continue to do so in as an adequate fashion as we can respond, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 116-13(4): Consultation in Development of a Protected Area Strategy

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be to the Minister of Renewable Resources,

Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Kakfwi delivered a document in this House a couple of days ago, the NWT Protected Area Strategy, and some time ago, I had asked the Minister a question on this particular strategy, and it was concerns that were raised by the mining industry, in particular, as to not being as involved as they felt that they should have been in the process. I congratulate the Minister, as I see that in early March, there is a meeting in Inuvik, in which all of the participants have been invited to attend. Can the Minister apprise me of meetings that he has had with the mining industry to alleviate their concerns and bring them onside to this important initiative?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 116-13(4): Consultation in Development of a Protected Area Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I have had some meetings with different representatives over the last few months regarding the mandate and the approach I am taking as a Minister carrying out my responsibilities as head of this newly formed department. I think that it has gone to alleviate some of the fears that industry has had. Hopefully, they realize that the work that we want to do to ensure that the land, the wildlife, and the natural resources of the north should be protected and used wisely for the benefit of the people, is something we take very seriously. At the same time, we want to provide opportunities for industry to continue to develop and grow as long it respects the integrity of the land, the wildlife, and the resources, and benefits our people here in the north. I think that the message has been getting through.

I have not heard anybody complain publicly or otherwise. It must suggest that they are comfortable with the message that we have been sending to them. Certainly, I have been available to meet with every company that has requested a meeting with myself and my officials. I am prepared to continue to meet with them as the need arises. I think they are realizing that we are open for business. If they have concerns, it is a waste of time to address them on CBC or the News of the North, that they can simply come and address to myself or to the Premier. That protective strategy that was announced by the federal Minister earlier this year, is one that the industry should take a proactive approach to addressing, since any

development in the future will have to address that it will be done on a piece meal basis. We have an opportunity, in a very practical way, to get together with all stake holders, the aboriginal groups, the wildlife boards, the users of the land and wildlife, and the environmental groups to carve out a strategy to detail the elements that should be taken into consideration in developing a protected area strategy, that we have been asked by the federal government to take the lead in developing. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 116-13(4): Consultation in Development of a Protected Area Strategy

MR. HENRY:

No questions.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 117-13(4): Lowering the Speed Limit on Highway No. 3

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be to the Minister of Transport, and it is regarding the Rae/Yellowknife No. 3 Highway. Last night, as Mr. Rabesca stated in his Member's statement, an 18 wheeler rolled over and spilled bags of cement. The cause of the accident is still unclear, but accidents seem to be happening on a regular basis on this particular portion of the highway, and there have been a number of fatalities.

Speaking with Staff Sergeant Grundy, he mentioned that the cause of many of these accidents is a combination of reasons. One is the bad road conditions, and the other is speed. The Minister stated yesterday that he is working with industry to ensure that the companies using that particular portion of the highway, they are going to have methods of discipline in place, and that everyone is on the alert. The Minister stated he has spoken, or his staff have spoken, with the RCMP, but the Minister did not commit to lowering the speed limit on that portion of the highway. He only said that he would consider lowering it. I wonder if the Minister could tell us, today, if he will definitely lower the speed limit on that portion of the highway?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation. Mr. Antoine.

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Return To Question 117-13(4): Lowering the Speed Limit on Highway No. 3

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the accident that happened at kilometre 286 last night on the highway to Rae-Edzo, at that curve and the load was bags of cement, and there were no injuries. The RCMP are investigating. That is what I have been told today, just to clarify that particular incident. Over the years, as I have travelled on the highways numerous times, I have seen a lot of different accidents over the years, not only on that section, but throughout the highway systems.

I have been told by a crew in Fort Providence that since they improved the highway between Providence and Yellowknife, there have been fewer, almost no accidents and no fatalities, as a result of the improvement in the road conditions. The only section that we have which is extremely bad and needs repairing is the section between Rae and Yellowknife. I informed the Members yesterday, that the department is seriously looking at that, and hopefully we have money approved to start reconstruction in the next few years. As for the speed limit, like I said the other day, I have not made a commitment to lower it, but if that is the direction that I am hearing from Members of this House and members of the public for added safety then we will seriously consider it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 117-13(4): Lowering the Speed Limit on Highway No. 3

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is a question of enforcement, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, the Minister stated he has spoken with industry and spoken with the RCMP but it is my opinion that the government should take some action on its part. First of all, to look at lowering the speed limit. My question is, will the Minister pursue this, immediately, because

within a month we are going to have heavy traffic on there for both Highway 3 and the Ingraham Trail. Second question, will he increase the enforcement on those particular highways? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 117-13(4): Lowering the Speed Limit on Highway No. 3

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department's transport officers who patrol this section of the highway with the radar, report that not many large trucks actually exceed the posted speed limit by more than a few kilometres per hour and the intention here is to increase the enforcement presence during the winter haul seasons. We would like to assure the Members that speeding will be given a very low tolerance. His suggestion to lower speed limits for trucks on the Fort Rae - Yellowknife section of the Highway No. 3, there are jurisdictions that deal with speed limits and are generally applied on multi-lane highways with designated passing lanes, which we do not have in this section of the road. The department feels strongly that to introduce dual speed limits will create even greater safety hazards than we have, because the slower mover vehicles will have a big train of vehicles back behind it. Given the conditions of the highway, maintaining the steady traffic flow, and strictly enforcing the speed limit seem to be the best approaches at this time, but if the Members feel strongly and the citizens that use this highway feel strongly that for yet added safety we lower the speed limit, then we will do it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 117-13(4): Lowering the Speed Limit on Highway No. 3

MR. OOTES:

Yes, I appreciate the Minister's comments. The other concern that is there is the enforcement and the patrolling of the highway. I am not sure if there is any weight systems and weight limits on the highway, because that will deteriorate our highway system and the safety of dangerous goods. I wonder if the Minister could commit to increasing patrols on both the Highway 3 and on the Ingraham Trail.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 117-13(4): Lowering the Speed Limit on Highway No. 3

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the enforcements arm of the Department of Transportation has a reputation among the truckers as being extremely strict, compared to southern jurisdictions. We hear that all the time. In fact, I have heard complaints since being Minister of Transportation that we are in fact too strict and too vigilant at times, by the trucking industry, and so we have both sides of the story. There are weight limits when the trucks enter the Northwest Territories there is a weigh scale over by Enterprise that takes the weights and makes sure that the loads for safety and dangerous goods are adhered to. We have highway patrol, if they see any trucks that seem to be in question, they are stopped immediately, and are questioned and checked.

In regards to the heavy loads that are going on our highway system, as I indicated the other day to the honourable Member from Hay River's question, I am told that for the chip seal and the paving that we have in the winter time is the best time for heavy loads because the roads are frozen and can bear heavy tonnage, more so than in the summer months. Therefore in regards to deterioration of the road, the concern is not as great in the winter time as it is in the summer time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 118-13(4): Costing of the Footprints 2 Government Design Model

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Deputy Premier in regards to division. The Minister of Finance indicated yesterday that funding for the governments was being based on the status quo, for the most part in the west, because there has been no clear indication of what other type of government may exist. My question is in regards to Footprints 2, which is significantly devoid of any kind of financial information, yet they lay out an elaborate type of decentralized government. My question to the Deputy

Premier is, are staff looking at putting price tags on the type of

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government suggested in Footprints 2, or are we working with NTI and the federal government to get those figures? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Deputy Premier, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 118-13(4): Costing of the Footprints 2 Government Design Model

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, we have made that point also, that the Member spoke of, that we are concerned that the model as it was laid out in Footprints 1 and 2 was not costed out. It is a nice elaborate model, but there is no way for us to compare it to anything else because there are no cost estimates. That is a concern we pointed out to the NIC. It is a fairly elaborate exercise to cost out a government model like that. At this point in time, before that model has been thoroughly examined and responded to by the three parties, the GNWT, the federal government, and NTI, I think it is premature to start costing out a model which will likely be modified. So, we will wait until there is further work on it before we cost it out. In fact we think it is a responsibility of the NIC to do that.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 118-13(4): Costing of the Footprints 2 Government Design Model

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of the Deputy Premier's comments that the model proposed will in all likelihood be modified, could the Deputy Premier indicate how that process will occur? So, we have an idea, if it is going to be based on funding requirements that it is going to be restructured, or possibly modified, or on what basis, since once again I come back to the point that funding is going to be the key in terms of setting up two new territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 118-13(4): Costing of the Footprints 2 Government Design Model

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I made the comment that the model will likely be restructured or changed a bit because of the fact that the NIC is an advisory body appointed by the three parties to furrow out, to look at options and then to propose models for the three parties to consider. The final model will come after the three parties have talked over it, have done some consultations on it, and agree or come to a consensus on one that meets, as much as possible, the expectations of the people in Nunavut and that is affordable. Affordability is a major concern and probably will have to be the number one factor, because, although we would like to have a government that is as close to the one that we had hoped for as possible, if we cannot afford it, then we will not be able to do it.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 118-13(4): Costing of the Footprints 2 Government Design Model

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question, then is, as we proceed with the formula financing negotiations, which to my understanding are under way. The west has set up a committee to work on that issue with the Minister of Finance, in addition to representatives from the east. How can we negotiate a realistic formula funding arrangement, if at the same time, we have no clear idea of the type of government that we will be expected to fund in the east? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 118-13(4): Costing of the Footprints 2 Government Design Model

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, that is a very important and good question. It is one that we need to discuss and to answer in the near future. But on financing matters I will choose to have the Finance Minister, who is also

the Chair of the Division Planning Committee answer when he is able to.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 118-13(4): Costing of the Footprints 2 Government Design Model

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question is in regards to Footprints 2, which I had mentioned earlier and the relationship of the interim commissioner to this whole funding process. Can the Deputy Premier indicate the status of the appointment of the interim commissioner who will have a key role to play, I would think, in all these various stages of implementation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 118-13(4): Costing of the Footprints 2 Government Design Model

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I would have to find that information and get back to the Member. However, the latest information I have, which is about a week old, said that the appointment was imminent, which may be in the next few weeks.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 119-13(4): Plans for Police Service in Holman

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Ng. I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, is there any plan in place at this time, by the various departments, to service Holman or supply police services in Holman out of the Nunavut region. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 119-13(4): Plans for Police Service in Holman

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the jurisdiction for policing administration goes with the RCMP, although we finance it through contractual agreements so that we have some input in that. I cannot say at this time whether

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or not there are plans in respect to what the honourable Member is asking. I will request that information and advise the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 120-13(4): Update on Fuel Contamination Problems

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)...and to my constituencies. As my colleague had questions about the fuel fungus and bacteria in the fuel, I would like to ask the question to the Minister responsible for Petroleum Products, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Speaker, has the Minister received any new information about the possible problems with the fuel supply in the eastern Arctic, or is he still waiting for test results on this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 120-13(4): Update on Fuel Contamination Problems

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I have just received, in the last hour, some information on the test results and I can share it with the House, if the Members wish. Thank you. I will paraphrase some of the information. A question has been raised about possible problems with fuel supply by petroleum products division in Iqaluit. The questions imply that the government has purchased a supply of cheap fuel that is contaminated. This has caused many people in the NWT to become worried

that their own furnaces or community generators are about to fail. This is simply not true, and I would also point out that the Power Corporation, along with our petroleum products division and fuel contractors in the communities have apparently received a large number of calls last night and this morning after airing of the story on Northbeat. The problem centres around sudden difficulties experienced by the NWT Power Corporation with the fuel used for their generators. The problem is isolated to the NWT Power Corporation's main generating station in Iqaluit which uses a unique system to preheat the fuel. The NWT Power Corporation has conducted a study to isolate the cause of the problem, the condition within their secondary fuel storage tank. They have dealt with the issue and it is no longer causing problems.

I would like to add one more thing, that during question period, the Member from Iqaluit also spoke of possible problems with water in the fuel supply in another community. We have checked with that community, and there have been no complaints. The local contractor is unaware of any difficulties. I have some more information that the Member wishes to receive.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 120-13(4): Update on Fuel Contamination Problems

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question to the Minister is, can the Minister confirm that the fuel in question was purchased from Italy, at a savings of \$5 million to this government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 120-13(4): Update on Fuel Contamination Problems

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I do not know where the fuel was purchased or how much it cost. As I indicated yesterday, we do try to get the best possible deal when we make these purchases. I would also like to say that the fuel supply we have is subjected to exhaustive testing that conforms to the Canadian General Standards Board specifications, which is, for

the north, enhanced for cold weather specifications. What we do is, test the fuel when it is loaded into the tankers, at the source, at the point when we off-load in the communities and after it has been mixed with the existing product.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 121-13(4): Protected Area Strategy Conference

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. It is also concerning the protected areas strategy. Mr. Speaker, the Minister had indicated that to develop the protected area strategy, he has invited groups to a conference in Inuvik during the first week of March. I was wondering if this government is paying for that conference and for the travel?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 121-13(4): Protected Area Strategy Conference

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, this government is providing the funds to ensure that this conference takes place. It is also being funded, hopefully, in part by the federal government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 121-13(4): Protected Area Strategy Conference

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister indicated yesterday, to be successful in developing our strategy, people must work together. How can people who are not invited to the conference contribute to developing this strategy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 121-13(4): Protected Area Strategy Conference

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to answer the question since I am not certain who will not be attending the conference that the Member is speaking of. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 121-13(4): Protected Area Strategy Conference

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Speaker, presumably the territorial government is not going to pay for 60,000 people to go to a conference. How will the remaining people, who do not go to the conference, how is this government going to make arrangements? What type of arrangements will this government make, so that the people who do not attend the conference can contribute towards the strategy of this protected area? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 121-13(4): Protected Area Strategy Conference

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, it is the intent of the conference to have the major stakeholders, the aboriginal organizations, the wildlife boards, the different companies, and industry that are interested in resource development, meet to discuss the issues and concerns which should be addressed in the course of developing a strategy, for development of the protected areas. Now, one of the elements that will be addressed, I am sure, is how do we involve the public? How do we involve the users? How do we involve the local communities in the development of this strategy? I am certain there will be some suggestions and recommendations made as a result of the conference, on addressing the very point that the Member is raising. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 121-13(4): Protected Area Strategy Conference

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could indicate, what happens once the protected area strategy has been developed? I am referring to whether the federal government is willing to implement whatever we come up with. Once the strategy has been developed, because we are going to have all these different stakeholders and people contributing, has the federal government indicated their willingness to implement the strategy that is developed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Again, can I remind the Members to ask a question to seek information or deal with a matter reasonably assumed within the Ministers' knowledge. The Member is asking for something that has not happened yet, and also to receive an answer to something that has not happened. The questions must not be trivial, meaningless, or frivolous. I would like to maybe ask the Member whether or not he would like to rephrase his question. Final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the federal government indicated whether they are willing to implement the developed strategy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 121-13(4): Protected Area Strategy Conference

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, it was the federal government that made it a condition, as part of the tentative approval for the BHP proposal, to go ahead so that the protected areas strategy may be developed between the federal government and this government by the year 1998. It is my view that the federal government feels comfortable to allow this government to take the lead

in developing this strategy. They are comfortable with allowing us, as northern people, northern stakeholders, aboriginal organizations, to go ahead and draft a protected areas strategy for the consideration of this government and the federal government, and have the analysis to accept. It is my view that, should we fall short in what they think a protected areas strategy should be, they would not hesitate to enhance and go beyond what we recommend. It is my belief that we have to go to the furthest extent possible in drafting a protected area strategy, and I believe the federal government is acting in good faith. They do want to enhance their international image, they do want to show the people of Canada that in the Northwest Territories, which is one-third the land mass of Canada, there will be a protected area strategy in place in two years time, and that they prepared to move decisively for it. Since they are still the owners of the land, they are still the managers, and they are still the ones that hold the legislative power to implement a protected areas strategy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 122-13(4): Status of Community Service Boards

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that it has been some time since we have discussed the formation of the community service board. I have talked with my constituents and discovered that not too many residents are really sure what is happening with these boards. I would also say that this concerns the community councils, for they are not being formed. My question is to the Minister responsible. Mr. Ng, is the community accepting this idea?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 122-13(4): Status of Community Service Boards

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that there have been some consultations, although I am not fully briefed on the extent of those consultations. I know that, in respect to Mackenzie regional health services in general, we

plan on having it decentralized by April 1. There are other groups. If there are some reservations from the Dogrib on forming the community services board, we are finalizing that. We will still plan on having a public administrator in place so there is some more presence and administrative control at the regional level to make it more accountable to the residents for whom we are providing those services, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 123-13(4): Impacts of Reductions in Mackenzie Delta Communities

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MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, in regards to the question I raised yesterday, regarding my riding and the concerns that we seemed to have run into, especially in relation to delivery...

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi, point of order.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I have been requested by members of the public to raise an issue, and I sent a note to the honourable Member, Mr. Krutko, early in the morning, making my request and it is this that and I agree in part with the point raised. When the honourable Member is wearing a Dene jacket, it is intended to show respect for the place and the occasion of the activity that is taking place. It is totally contrary to that intent when he wears a Mickey Mouse tie with that attire. People are watching us on television, and wonder why this point has not been raised. I have taken time, as I have said, to pass the concern to the Member by note earlier this morning. I ask, Mr. Speaker, whether or not, we share the concern, that there is no need to wear a tie, as I know with traditional garments like this.

It has been raised that some people, including myself, find it offensive to wear a tie like that which does not

lend itself to the dignity that a jacket like that brings. It also offends some people about the fact that an honourable Member of this House would wear a Mickey Mouse tie. What kind of a statement does that bring to the dignity of this legislature? So, I rise to make that point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

I have indicated, on several occasions, about the way Members dress with regard to dressing according to the times. The Member from Sahtu is offended by the Member for Mackenzie Delta wearing this Mickey Mouse tie. If a Member is offended by the way a Member dresses, then the honourable thing for the Member to do is to remove himself and wear the appropriate tie. Mr. Krutko, I will allow some of the Members to address the issue, because a number of times now, this issue of the way we dress as Members and the message that we send to the general public, to our aboriginal people, is very important. I cannot make a ruling until I hear perhaps from the Members on what their feeling is with regard to the way we dress and the exception of the way we dress.

The other issue that I would like to raise, again, the clock is ticking on question period. Perhaps that is another concern that we should be addressing. When we are making points of orders, that we make it at the appropriate time so that it does not disrupt what little time the Members do have. Regarding the point of order, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have to agree with the colleague who raised the point in regards to wearing just the traditional jacket without a tie. I was told that I had to wear a tie. I do agree that when we are using traditional dress that we should not wear a tie, but that is what it says in the document. I also have a lot of Mickey Mouse fans out there, and that is why I do wear my Mickey Mouse tie, especially for the younger people out there, who like to look for Mickey once in awhile on TV. With that I do have to concur with the Member's concern, that I do not believe that I should have to wear a tie with my coat, but I guess you have to rule on that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Do we have any further concerns that Members wish to express? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Speaker. Thank you. Perhaps, we could set a time when we can discuss this properly. I know that I do have some concerns with some of the things that have been worn, but I would rather have a bit of time to properly think about it, and let everybody else think about it also. Perhaps we could set a time to do this rather than right now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member from Sahtu does have a point of order with regard to, when in the Assembly, every Member shall attend in native dress or in a manner appropriate to the dignity of this Assembly, and I heard that the Member did say that... just for clarity, Mr. Kakfwi, are you offended by the Member wearing a traditional jacket and a tie, or are you offended by the tie with the Mickey Mouse? For clarity.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I raised two points, the first of which is the one that I agreed with. I was asked by a member of the public. There were two points. One, that the wearing of a tie that has Mickey Mouse on it offends the dignity of the Dene jacket that is worn. The second point raised was that the wearing of a Mickey Mouse tie offends the dignity of the House in which the Member is sitting. I think I specifically said, if I did not, I should have, that I find it offensive only in the first instance, and that is what I wanted to raise. That I find it undignified for the Member to be wearing a Mickey Mouse tie with a Dene jacket, which I think he should show more respect for. That is the one I raised, leaving lots of room for other Members of the Legislature to speak to the second point if they wish. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Again, for clarity, Mr. Kakfwi, perhaps you might...a member of the public has been offended by the tie. As the Member for Sahtu, are you offended by the Mickey Mouse tie?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, what I have tried to say specifically is that I find it offensive for the Member to be wearing a Mickey Mouse tie while he is wearing a Dene jacket. I find that offensive, yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Sahtu is offended by the Member for Mackenzie Delta wearing traditional clothes with a tie. Also, if the Member for Mackenzie Delta removes the tie, then it might offend other Members that are wearing ties. So, I am caught between a rock and a hard place. I will reserve my ruling and get back to the House on it. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 123-13(4): Impacts of Reductions in Mackenzie Delta Communities

MR. KRUTKO:

My question was to the Minister of MACA, in regards to the whole question about the effects regarding to my region, especially with the cuts that we have been seeing, especially with the programs that are being delivered on behalf of the government by those communities such as the water, the sewer, the subsidies that seem to have been cut are affecting all my communities. I was wondering if, in regards to capital dollars that have been moved around without the consent of those communities, what is the Minister doing to revise this issue, and is she willing to relook at it and possibly,

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reallocate some of those funds back into the municipal budgets?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Ms Thompson.

Return To Question 123-13(4): Impacts of Reductions in Mackenzie Delta Communities

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have spoken to the Member and one of his mayors. I told them we would continue to work closely with them on the many issues they brought forward. Where possible, we would try to do something. As the MLA for this area, he is kept informed of the cuts each department has been responsible for. Our department meets regularly with Mr. Krutko's communities to talk about how these cuts will affect them. We feel that this type of communication is important. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Question period is over. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Can I go back to Item 5, please.

MR. SPEAKER:

Is there unanimous consent to go back to Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery? Are there any nays? You have unanimous consent, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the Mayor of Aklavik, Charlie Furlong, who has also come down with hat in hand to meet with the various government departments to put some money in the hat. Mr. Charlie Furlong.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the new Mayor of Arviat, Peter Kritaqliluk, and also, Darren Flynn, the SAO.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot see from here, but I wonder if somebody could confirm for me, is Walt Disney in the gallery, today? Thank you.

-- Laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Mr. O'Brien.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, January 27th, I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the honourable Member from Yellowknife Centre, the tabled document 20-13(4), entitled, Report on the Joint Working Group on the Business Incentive Policy, be referred to the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development, and the Cabinet for further review, and further that the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development, and the Cabinet report back to the Legislative Assembly with recommendations as to the future structure of the business incentive policy by February 20, 1997. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motions. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, January 27th, 1997, I will move that Bill 8, Appropriation Act 1997-98, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion for the first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Motion 7-13(4). The motion will be dropped off the order paper. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk. Item 22, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social Programs at 12:30 p.m. today. On Saturday, January 25th, also a meeting of the Standing Committee on Social Programs at 12 noon, and on Sunday, January 26th, the Management and Services Board at 1:15 p.m. Meetings for Monday, January 27th., at 9:00 a.m. of the Ordinary Members Caucus, and at 10:30 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Social Programs.

Orders of the day for Monday, January 27:

1. Prayer
 2. Budget Address
 3. Ministers' Statements
 4. Members' Statements
 5. Returns to Oral Questions
 6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
 7. Oral Questions
 8. Written Questions
 9. Returns to Written Questions
 10. Replies to Opening Address
 11. Replies to Budget Address
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12. Petitions
 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
 14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
 15. Tabling of Documents
 16. Notices of Motion
 17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
 18. Motions
- Motion 8
 19. First Reading of Bills
- Bill 8
 20. Second Reading of Bills
 21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 22. Report of Committee of the Whole
 23. Third Reading of Bills
 24. Orders of the Day.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned
until Monday, January 27, 1997, at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT