



**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. Erasmus, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Honourable Samuel Gargan, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Honourable Don Morin, Mr. Miltenberger, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Honourable John Todd

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 constant recognition of the dignity and aspirations of those whom we serve. Amen.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Rabesca. Good afternoon. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 34-13(4): Ministers Absent from the House

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Manitok Thompson is ill and will be absent from the House today.

As well, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi will be late for Session today. He is returning from a meeting in Edmonton with the federal Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development regarding the Canada Endangered Species Protection Act.

The Honourable Jim Antoine will also be late for Session today. He is returning from Deh Cho Leaders Assembly in Fort Providence, I believe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Ng

Minister's Statement 35-13(4): Adolescent Solvent Abuse Treatment Program

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, this past September the federal government discontinued its funding of the Adolescent Solvent Abuse Treatment Program, placing the operation of the program in jeopardy. The Department of Health and Social Services stepped in to allow the program to operate until the end of this fiscal year.

Today, I am pleased to announce that the Department of Health and Social Services will provide the necessary funding to continue to keep the Adolescent Solvent Abuse Treatment Program running. Not only will the program stay open, Mr. Speaker, but its scope can be broadened. Federal funding restrictions meant that the program had to target aboriginal youth with solvent abuse problems. Now, with the commitment of territorial government funding, Northern Addiction Services, who operate the program here in Yellowknife, will have the flexibility to include treatment of alcohol and drug abuse for aboriginal and non-aboriginal youth.

-- Applause

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad truth that far too many of our northern youth abuse alcohol, drugs, and solvents. A recent survey found that over a third of northern youth aged 15 to 24 were heavy drinkers, over a third had used marijuana or hashish, and an alarming 13 percent had sniffed solvents. Our future is in our young people, Mr. Speaker. Successful early intervention in the lives of young drug and alcohol abusers will mean fewer addicted adults in the future.

The Department of Health and Social Services is working very hard to find better ways to meet the health and social needs of northerners. Supporting this valuable program is an important part of our effort to keep our young people healthy and work towards eliminating the root causes of health and social problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Support for Victims of the Old Crow School Fire

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, the school in Old Crow was destroyed by fire. The evacuation of the school went smoothly without incident, and no one was hurt. I would like to commend the teachers and the students for carrying this out in a thoughtful manner. In the process of evacuation, the children and teachers left behind their boots, shoes, mitts, scarves, neck warmers, jackets, and parkas. Mr. Speaker, the Gwich'in in Mackenzie Delta are now gathering school supplies and clothing for the children of Old Crow. I have been informed that a charter will be departing to Old Crow with some supplies, clothing, tomorrow morning. The people of Fort McPherson will also be travelling to Old Crow to lend support to the teachers and students.

I would like to call on other communities in the Northwest Territories to donate any kind and welcome anything that can be dropped off at the Gwich'in offices in the communities of Fort McPherson, Inuvik, Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic. Communities can also send supplies and clothing to Chief Randal Tetlich, Old Crow, Yukon, Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement On Impact of Budget Reductions on Low Income Families

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MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I am pleased by the attempts on the part of the present government to live within an increasingly bleak revenue picture, I am very concerned that the lack of focus on how we implement our budget will bring far more pain than need to our population. Especially for the most vulnerable, those with little, or unemployment, or other options. Until we can improve our decision making system, waste may be the order of the day. The arbitrariness of cuts for some programs recently issued demonstrates this point. It seems to be some type of Ouija board government happening here, which takes more direction from touchy-feely current instincts.

At the root of this problem is the lack of on-going evaluation of programs, systematic evaluation

providing us with comparisons of value for many more program wishes than we can completely fund.

Mr. Speaker, today I had a call from a single mother with two small children. The mother explained to me that she pays \$580 every two weeks for day care. Mr. Speaker, this working mother takes home a net pay of \$987 every two weeks. By the time she buys groceries and pays taxi fares, she has \$30 left. She has to pay the power bill and her phone bill, et cetera. Mr. Speaker, the gross salary of this individual is \$35,000 a year. She is a member of the working poor. I have tried to refer this lady to various departments for help, but, Mr. Speaker, she makes too much money. Can you believe that? She makes too much money. The mother said that by going on social assistance, she would be better off financially. We have to address this, Mr. Speaker. The point here is that yes, we have to balance the budget. Yes, we have to cut back. Yes, we have to reduce, but we also have to maintain the less fortunate in our society that Mr. Todd talked about the other day, which Mr. Miltenberger mentioned yesterday. If we do not do this, it will all have been for nothing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Inuvik Heating Costs

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, I rise this afternoon to once again ...

AN HON. MEMBER:

Say hello to your wife?

MR. ROLAND:

Say hello to my wife and family back home. Thank you Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Speaker, I would hate to disappoint the gentlemen around the table here. Mr. Speaker, I have concern, in the community of Inuvik, that once again we are taking undo pressure when it comes to budget reductions. Mr. Speaker, I have recently received calls from my home community of Inuvik on a concern with the news that is going around town on the proposed rate hikes for the high temp system in Inuvik. They are saying that the high temp system could rise by approximately 60 percent in the buildings.

Mr. Speaker, in a community that is already hard hit, that has lost a lot of employment, and is continuing to try and adjust dealing with the deficit situation it is put in, I am concerned that, as a government, and parts of our government, are looking at imposing or trying to impose such outrageous rates. Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to a number of people who have owned homes in Inuvik that bought their homes from the GNWT that were hooked to the existing high temp system. On certain months of the year they can pay up to \$800 a month just alone for the heat they receive in their homes. Sixty percent of that, Mr. Speaker, to add on top of less wages to pay the bills. Mr. Speaker, I have very serious concerns at what message we are sending when it comes to fairness and trying to deal with the people in the territories equally. I will have questions for the appropriate Minister at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Members' statements, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement On Senior's Fuel Subsidy Program

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am going to tell a story. Once upon a time, in a little town in the Northwest Territories, there was a street. And on that street lived a variety of townspeople. In the first house, lived a little elderly grandma, and she owned the home that her late husband and she had lived in. She had many happy memories from this modest home where she had raised her children, who were now all grown up. On her meager income of \$13,000 per year, she had a fairly happy life, until one day the government came along and told her that she was earning too much money, and that the fuel man and wood man were not coming to her house any more unless she had the money to pay them.

She ran to her good neighbours to ask if the government had been to their door. The couple next door had indeed had a visit too, but although their house was the same size as hers, and it cost roughly the same to heat and maintain, the wood man and the fuel man were still coming to their house because, although their household income was \$29,000, they were not earning too much. She ran to the neighbours next to them, who were really comfy and warm. They were getting ready to go on a trip to see their children. And, although they were retired and living on a good

pension, they had extra money to buy things for their grandchildren, to eat out once in a while, and buy good food and clothing. The old lady was happy for these neighbours because they lived in a home owned by the government. They did not have to pay for their wood, fuel, power, rent, repairs, nothing, but the government had not been to their door either.

Alas, the old woman returned to her home. That night she shivered in her bed, wondering what she could do to afford her little house. She was comfortable there. Could she get a job? Could she move into a government house too? No, there were no more, and she was too old for anyone to hire her. The government houses were all taken. She would cut back on her food and clothing and get some cheap wood from the correctional centre. But when she called them up she found out that there was no more cheap wood for seniors. Although the woman tried not to worry, she began to dread the night when she would lay in her bed all alone and worry about the future. After many sleepless nights, she became sick and stopped going out of her house. One day, the ambulance came and picked her up, and she lived out all the rest of her days in the hospital. The hospital was nice and she thought that it must cost the government a lot of money. But she was lonely for her little house. She quit looking forward to visits

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from her family, and one day she quietly passed away. Her grandchildren and her neighbours sadly missed her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Members' statements, Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement On Jurisdictional Responsibility for House Boats

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is about the jurisdictions in the Northwest Territories, in particular Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, over the past year there has been lots of discussion in Yellowknife about house boats. This has caused confusion and anger for many people. In other places, this particular type of situation is not an issue. There are plenty of examples of house boats in B.C. For instance, in Vancouver the City of Vancouver has jurisdiction over

house boats and there are land use marine guidelines used. On Granville Island, CMHC has jurisdiction by order of council, and the land, in this case the water, is leased to the home owners. Mr. Speaker, the problem is jurisdiction. Elsewhere in Canada, it is clear who is responsible. Here, in the Northwest Territories, and particularly Yellowknife, there are many players. There is the city, there is the territorial government, there is the federal government, and then, of course, there are the aboriginal people because of the claims. Everything is up in the air. There are treaty land entitlements, land claims, and self-government is still hanging around out there unanswered. The federal government has authority over some land and waters. It is ridiculous that so much time, energy, and dollars are being spent on this issue in Yellowknife. Once again, lack of decisive action by the federal government is causing trouble for northerners. We need the jurisdiction clarified. Not just for house boats, but for other activities. The federal government must settle self-government and land claim issues, and soon. The general public and potential investors should not have to wonder who is responsible for the land. It is time we were responsible for our own land, not just treated as tenants. It is primarily the federal government who can clarify this. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me pleasure today to recognize John Hicks who is the newly elected mayor of Rankin Inlet, and with him is Antonie Masone, who is the administrative officer for the centre of the universe, the growing metropolis, the constituency that stands above all the rest, my home town, Rankin Inlet. 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 acknowledge the presence of Yellowknife businessman and well known northerner, Dave McCann, in our gallery today, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 165-13(4): Regional Librarian Positions

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past few days I have been trying to get some information from the Minister of Education on the librarian's position. In the Department of Education's capital standards, regional librarians are described as having a specific purpose. They are established to support a specific designated region. The standards indicated regional libraries are designed for joint use with the community library. In the past there has been a clearly demonstrated need for the regional library in the Baffin Region. Can the Minister explain why his department has decided that this need no longer exists, and is eliminating the regional librarian position?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Education, Culture, and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 165-13(4): Regional Librarian Positions

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think that the answer to this question is the same as I have given in the last couple of days. The positions have been eliminated across the Northwest Territories. It is a budgetary measure, but it is also one that we feel will not have a significant impact on community libraries, because support can still be provided through other means. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 165-13(4): Regional Librarian Positions

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Todd thinks it is a good answer, but 4,000 other people do not. In the past, Mr. Speaker, the Minister has talked about technology, and how that will help when the regional librarian is gone. Is the Minister indicating, when he talks about technology in small communities in the Baffin, that modern technology has reached a point where it can replace people?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 165-13(4): Regional Librarian Positions

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I think I have answered this question previously. The technology is progressing to the point where we believe that

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certainly in the next little while, the services will be delivered adequately to all communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 165-13(4): Regional Librarian Positions

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes I think this technology is becoming almost like a frankenstein monster that we are creating. Mr. Speaker, the community was not consulted with the removal or supposed lay-off of the regional librarian position. Is that community empowerment? Is that community consultation that we keep priding ourselves on in this House? I have raised my concerns before the preservation and use of Inuktitut in this House, and one of the advantages of having a regional librarian in the Baffin is to deal with Baffin communities, is that she has that quick access to Inuktitut language speakers who could help clarify requests and queries. I am sure that the staff in Hay River do not have that

same access, especially since the same Minister is also proposing to eliminate the interpreter translator services at the language bureau. It is very hard for me to get my question out Mr. Speaker, when the people across the floor are interrupting me. Can the Minister indicate how language difficulties in requests by many of the unilingual people in the Baffin Region can be addressed by people in Hay River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To remind the Members again to have your preamble and then three supplementaries.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 165-13(4): Regional Librarian Positions

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this was not a community position that was being eliminated, and does not in anyway tie into community empowerment. Therefore, we are not proposing to eliminate any community librarians.

The positions that we are proposing to eliminate, there are two of them, one in Keewatin and one in the Baffin, are the only two regional positions left in the Territories. It is difficult for me, as Minister, to stand up and say that two regions deserve special treatment, when we cannot put the regional librarians into other regions in the Territories. We are confident, Mr. Speaker, that the services will still be available electronically to all community librarians across the north. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 165-13(4): Regional Librarian Positions

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would not need a long preamble or a long lead in time in the question if the Members would give the dignity and respect, and decorum in this House that, I think, we should be generating to the people of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, the Minister said that he cannot afford to keep the librarian position in Rankin Inlet, and cannot afford to keep it in Iqaluit because it is not anywhere else in the Northwest Territories. Does that make it right? We cut two people because we cannot afford to put them somewhere else? I do not think that is good politics. I do not think that is good government. So, my question to the Minister is will he rethink, will this government rethink, will this department rethink the layoff notice given to the regional librarian in Iqaluit and also in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 165-13(4): Regional Librarian Positions

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Mr. Speaker, the Member may not think it is good politics, but I have presented other arguments as reasons for what we are doing. Those being that we can maintain the services without those positions. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the answer to his question is no.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 166-13(4): Rural and Remote Housing Program

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of housing. It is in regards to the old R and R housing programs, which a lot of them were built in my constituency, and which to date people are still paying mortgages on those units. At the time of signing those mortgages, their understanding was that it was going to cost them \$59,000 to build these units, and also they use that equity to build these. Yet, some 20 years later, they have paid in the range of \$130,000 on these units. Yet, they are continuing to pay monthly. To the Minister of the Housing Corporation, can he tell me if the department is looking into this matter and trying to resolve it? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 166-13(4): Rural and Remote Housing Program

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, it is a fact of life that with these long term mortgages that in most cases you will be paying for 20, 25, 30 years on the mortgage before it is paid off. I am aware of the concern that the Member has raised. It has been raised by the Member from Fort Smith several times to me. We are looking into the concerns raised.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 166-13(4): Rural and Remote Housing Program

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary, could the Minister inform the clients who have received the R and R housing program that you are looking into the matter, so that it can resolve some of their concerns also?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

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Further Return To Question 166-13(4): Rural and Remote Housing Program

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker. What I will do is talk again with my staff in the Housing Corporation and see if there is, in fact, anything that we can do, but I do not want to do with these homeowners is to raise the expectations that we may be changing their payments. So, I will look into it first before making any inquiries outside.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 166-13(4): Rural and Remote Housing Program

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister give me an idea on the timeframe that we are looking at in regards to this matter being resolved, and how soon can you resolve it?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 166-13(4): Rural and Remote Housing Program

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

I cannot say at this time, but tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock, my officials and I are meeting with the Standing Committee on Social Programs. Mortgages, rents, housing shortages, et cetera are on the agenda for discussion. What I can say is that I will attempt to find an answer to the Member's question and answer it at that time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 166-13(4): Rural and Remote Housing Program

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Final supplementary, could the Minister tell us exactly what the interest rates these people are paying on the mortgage of those houses versus what it is to date?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 166-13(4): Rural and Remote Housing Program

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I can find that out also and tell the Member tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 167-13(4): Proposed Increase to Inuvik Heating Costs

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corp. Mr. Speaker, recently, as I said earlier, news has been going around the community of Inuvik about the proposed rate hikes of those families whose homes are still connected to the high temp system. I would like to ask the Minister responsible if he is aware of this, and what would be the need to raise rates so high. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 167-13(4): Proposed Increase to Inuvik Heating Costs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Power Corporation has been hired under contract to operate the utilidor system by the Inuvik Utilidor Planning Committee, which is made up of the municipality and government agencies. What appears to be driving the increases are two major factors: one, the reduction in the number of users on the system, which means that remaining users on the system have their rates go up in order to cover the relatively high fixed costs of operating the system; two, the system is getting quite old, and requires a significant amount of maintenance to keep it in operation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 167-13(4): Proposed Increase to Inuvik Heating Costs

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would any of the cost of running the facility be related to the price of oil they have to pay for running the facility nowadays? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 167-13(4): Proposed Increase to Inuvik Heating Costs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the price of oil would always play some part in the cost of operating boilers. There is no question the price of oil has gone up significantly in the past year to year and a half. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 167-13(4): Proposed Increase to Inuvik Heating Costs

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up my question to the Minister would be regarding the increased price of oil, could it have anything to do with the deal this government made for getting oil from a different place? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 167-13(4): Proposed Increase to Inuvik Heating Costs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cost of oil in the western Arctic is pooled. The purchase arrangements made this year where the corporation worked in cooperation with Public Works and Services should mean no net significant difference in the cost of oil, other than what the market increase has been. In fact, the Power Corporation is expecting to receive an offsetting payment from Public Works

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to balance out the extra cost for the heavy oil to the Inuvik region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 167-13(4): Proposed Increase to Inuvik Heating Costs

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very reassuring to hear that. Would the Minister be letting the people of Inuvik know that there will be this offsetting reduction that would help the people of Inuvik, so this impact might not be such a necessarily high one? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 167-13(4): Proposed Increase to Inuvik Heating Costs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to be very clear that the increase in the price of oil is a worldwide factor. It has caused the Power Corporation's operations across the Northwest Territories to see a tremendous increase in costs in the last year. This is true in Inuvik, Iqaluit, and Yellowknife, and is only one very small part of what is really driving up the costs in the Inuvik high temperature heating system. I would not want to stand here and give the residents of Inuvik some cause to believe that there is going to be a significant decrease in the cost of the operations of that system because of the offset that we are expecting from Public Works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 168-13(4): Response to Footprints 2

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for division activities. The journey to division 1999 is going to be one that requires a lot of patience, cooperation, compromise and statesmanship, I would suggest. I understand that NTI and NIC have recently made some very harsh public comments about decisions made by this Assembly, in the government in regards to Footprints 2. Could the Minister indicate what his response will be in his reply to this particular incident? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The chair finds it difficult to refer this because we do not have any specific portfolio that is responsible for division. So I will refer to the Premier, and the Premier can refer to a Minister that might be taking on the role of responsibility.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will refer that question to the Minister responsible for division, the Chairman of the Division Committee, Mr. Todd. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 168-13(4): Response to Footprints 2

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it would be fair to say I am somewhat uncomfortable responding to the question that my honourable colleague raised. However, I think, in general, it is somewhat unfortunate if issues, such as the kind of comments that have been made in the press lately, they only, in my opinion, serve to muddy the waters, if you will, and to complicate an already fragile coalition of thought. I would hope that, in the future, clearly the need for us to reach a consensus by all parties, and to rise above small-minded partisan attitudes and I would hope that all parties would rise above that in the coming weeks. This party, this Cabinet and this House, is prepared to do that and to work closely with the partnerships. We have taken a very direct and aggressive position on Footprints and we are hoping that common sense will prevail and we will get a comprehensive response from the two other parties so that we can get beyond some of the comments that have been made and get on with reaching a consensus to move forward, as my honourable colleague has said, in a timely and responsible way for the division of the Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 168-13(4): Response to Footprints 2

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for the lack of clarity in who I was directing my question to. Could the Minister indicate whether there has been any further notice of any kind of replies from the other two parties in regards to Footprints 2 at this point, since last week? As the clock quickly moves on. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 168-13(4): Response to Footprints 2

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that the NTI is currently in Coppermine this week and that they are going to be responding, I think, to the NIC report next week. We are still urging and, I believe I said in the House earlier this week, the Premier is urging Mr. Irwin and the department, DIAND, to give us a comprehensive response to Footprints. I am optimistic that, if we can get beyond some of the unnecessary rhetoric out there, that we can reach an arrangement or consensus, hopefully some time in February. As I said in the House, earlier this week in response to a question, that I am hoping that will occur. Clearly, there is a need, for all parties, to put aside some of the emotion that is currently under way, recognize that each of us is an equal partner and has the right to make comment on any of the reports brought down. It seems to me to be silly to suggest that the government is not allowed to make comments, or the comments we made are irresponsible. In fact, we believe they are responsible. We believe they are timely and, of course, they are open for discussion and we look forward to the other two responses from the other two parties and will make every effort to reach consensus and move aggressively towards implementing and pre-implementing the division of the Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 168-13(4): Response to Footprints 2

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MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate whether or not the staff of GNWT working on division, whether they are continuing to proceed on all fronts, with all possible speed, and they are not sitting in neutral waiting for responses?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 168-13(4): Response to Footprints 2

HON. JOHN TODD:

I want to assure my honourable colleague that we are moving aggressively. I have publicly said in this House that I am concerned about the fact that we are running out of time. One minute it is 24 months, the next minute it is 22 months, and at the end of this month, it will be 21 months. The timelines, as Mr. Picco would say, are ticking. There is clearly a need to move quickly to reach consensus on the poor framework of two new governments. It is incumbent on myself, who has been charged with responsibility by the Premier, to coordinate our division plans to take a look, at what I believe, is a pre-implementation plan that is necessary to get on with pre-implementing division. I have said that publicly, we cannot wait until April 1, and turn on the lights. I am working, in conjunction with the Division Secretariat, in a full analysis of the Footprints in the Snow 2 report and taking a look at what we can do, within the resources that we have, to pre-implement Nunavut. I am hoping to share that with my colleagues and with the NIC staff and their people, and anyone else who wants to take a look at it. It would be irresponsible for us not to put together some kind of fiscal management plan that compliments, if you want, the NIC report and that is something I intend at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 169-13(4): New Revenue Initiatives

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, in the budget address, we learn that we have a surplus of over \$8 million this year and our only means of generating revenue is through lotteries and mines in the north. My question is, has his department put up a suggestion box so that we will learn from people out there how we can generate revenue?

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 169-13(4): New Revenue Initiatives

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, no, we have not put up a suggestion box but I will ask my staff to consider it and I will ensure that it is hung in Mr. Picco's office. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 169-13(4): New Revenue Initiatives

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question is that we have learned that we have generated \$20 million through arts and crafts in the north. This was killed by this government. Is he going to come up with that arts and crafts program again? Will his department come up with that program again through arts and crafts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 169-13(4): New Revenue Initiatives

HON. JOHN TODD:

Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I have no clue what the honourable Member is talking about and I do not want to embarrass him, so I do not have the answer.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 170-13(4): Repatriation of Northerners from Southern Institutions

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past, I have heard the government of the Northwest Territories, the Department of Health and Social Services, speak about the repatriation of NWT residents living in southern institutions in Canada. I want to know if the Minister, the Honourable Kelvin Ng, could update the House on any progress that they have made with any initiatives in this area? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 170-13(4): Repatriation of Northerners from Southern Institutions

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been some repatriation, some movement of some of our constituents from southern Canada, back to the Northwest Territories. I do not have particular details here with me, but I will get that information and provide it to the honourable Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 170-13(4): Repatriation of Northerners from Southern Institutions

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Mr. Speaker, would the Minister have, even a rough idea, of how many NWT residents would be in southern Canada, in institutions, at any given time?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 170-13(4): Repatriation of Northerners from Southern Institutions

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a very detailed question. I will commit to finding out that information and providing it to the honourable Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

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Question 171-13(4): Methods for the Issuance of Contracts

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of the Department of Public Works and Services. I am not a member of the Infrastructure

Committee that reviews that particular department's business plans and, therefore, I am not completely familiar with all the programs they run. I understand the department does contracts through the following areas, public tenders, sole-sourced and negotiated. I wonder if the Minister could tell me if there are any other methods by which the department issues contracts?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 171-13(4): Methods for the Issuance of Contracts

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, 80 or 90 per cent plus of our contracts and tenders are through the public tender process. There are circumstances where we do negotiate contracts with community corporations and some businesses in the smaller communities. There is some sole-sourcing that occurs with our purchasing, et cetera. I do not have any other information on that, but I will find it and pass it on to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 171-13(4): Methods for the Issuance of Contracts

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Eighty or 90 percent are done through public tenders. Does that mean that all of those that are issued, that those who tender on those particular contracts follow the normal tendering process, whereby the tenders are opened, publicly, and that all of the tenderers know who the successful bidder was and that they know how much the successful bid was for, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 171-13(4): Methods for the Issuance of Contracts

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, that is a question that does require some detailed, very technical information. There are situations where we do contracts through requests for proposals. Let me repeat that I will find that information and pass it on to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 171-13(4): Methods for the Issuance of Contracts

MR. OOTES:

Yes, I wonder if the Minister could tell us a little more about the requests for proposals, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 171-13(4): Methods for the Issuance of Contracts

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, to put it very simply, a request for proposal is when the government would like a job done, but does not have all the details of how it will be done. It is a proposal call for companies to write up, not only what they would do and how much it would cost on a particular contract, but how they would come about that. That is different from a public tender call, where the government knows exactly what is to be done and approximately how much it would cost and, therefore, it is more cut and dried.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 171-13(4): Methods for the Issuance of Contracts

MR. OOTES:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. If I understand correctly, the government does contracts through public tender, sole-sourced, negotiated, and requests for proposals. Would the Minister answer that for me?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 171-13(4): Methods for the Issuance of Contracts

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, that is essentially correct.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 172-13(4): Privatization of Computer Services

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Public Works, Mr. Arlooktoo. His department recently had requests for proposals on privatization of systems and computer services. I understand the Minister has made some decisions on parts of those proposals, and I was wondering if he could advise me as to some of the decisions he has made in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 172-13(4): Privatization of Computer Services

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the government did issue a request for proposals last July, as one of its privatization initiatives, to privatize the systems and communications section of the government. We broke the contract down to two areas, systems maintenance and computer operations. The systems maintenance contract has been awarded to Kirk Computer Systems of Yellowknife. The second request for proposal that we issued, we received three proposals. However, none of those proposals were acceptable so a contract was not awarded on that particular one.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 172-13(4): Privatization of Computer Services

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MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the proposals that were not awarded, what were the reasons given to the proponents for not awarding them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 172-13(4): Privatization of Computer Services

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, at this point in time, I do not know what has been communicated to the proponents of the three groups that were bidding for the contract. Until I am sure what has been communicated, I would rather not say here, at this point in time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 172-13(4): Privatization of Computer Services

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quite sure the Minister and his officials have probably looked at these proposals and made the right decision. I would not want to second guess him on that regard. I would still be interested in the reasons why. I would also ask the Minister maybe if he could respond to the question of whether those proposals will be looked at again in the future for privatization, if the concerns that were brought up for not awarding it at this time, would be alleviated some time in the future. Would he consider going to privatization again? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 172-13(4): Privatization of Computer Services

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the short answer to that would be, yes we will continue to look at options for privatization. On this particular one, at this point of time, we have decided that none of the proposals were what we were looking for so, therefore, that portion of the services will not be privatized, at this time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 173-13(4): Funding for the Western Constitutional Process

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance if he could clarify for me his response to me yesterday in the committee of the whole as to what a million dollars was that was identified for western Arctic constitutional talks and self-government talks. I believe, that he suggested in the Hansard that this was to be in the supplementary appropriation, and I would like to know whether that is this year's supplementary or 97-98 supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance.

Return To Question 173-13(4): Funding for the Western Constitutional Process

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If my memory serves me correct, it was approved by the FMB for the 1997-98 expenditures. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 173-13(4): Funding for the Western Constitutional Process

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would it be then fair to say that if we spend the million dollars there will not be \$8 million surplus at the end of the year?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 173-13(4): Funding for the Western Constitutional Process

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker. The \$8 million or \$9 million surplus is a projected surplus based on us getting the kind of savings that we want, and the expenditures that we projected. Whether we expend a million dollars here or a million dollars there, it is only relevant in the large picture with respect to the overall fiscal position of this government. The request from aboriginal affairs is to meet the new increasing responsibilities and the discussions that are under way with respect to the self-government arrangements that are being made in the western Arctic, and we are responding to that new momentum and then initiative. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 173-13(4): Funding for the Western Constitutional Process

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when can we expect to see this supplementary request?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 173-13(4): Funding for the Western Constitutional Process

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker. This is the first one I have had to take in this session, but I will probably ... well, I will not take it as notice, because I think I am getting signals here that it will in fact be part of the overall appropriations that have to be expended in this budget, I believe, but I better check it out myself.

-- Laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 174-13(4): Price of Fuel Oil

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister responsible for petroleum, oil or POL, I guess, as we know it in the gentlemen's term out in

the working world, not to say that we do not work here. I would like to know when the government made the deal with Strathcona Refineries or ESSO from getting the fuel from

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Strathcona Refineries, what was the price of oil at that time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Kakfwi. Petroleum. No, the Member said petroleum resources.

Return To Question 174-13(4): Price of Fuel Oil

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I assume that you would recognize the question that is something that is beyond most normal people's mental recollection. It is not humanly possible to recall on a moment's notice, go back and figure out what the price of fuel was, last month, let alone a year ago.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The chair finds it very difficult. This is the second listing of responsibilities of Ministers that I have received in two days. Things keep changing here. I also get confused. But I believe the question was directed to the Minister of Public Works and Services. So I would like to ask the Member from Inuvik if he would redirect his question as the first question.

Question 174-13(4): Price of Fuel Oil

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for not getting the terminology right. There are so many abbreviations for all the departments we have in this government. Although I do not quite agree with the response that I got from the previous Minister, but I also have a short memory, although he did not do the deals with the oil. My question would go to the Minister of Public Works and Services, and I would ask him what was the price of the oil that was purchased at the time the deal was signed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 174-13(4): Price of Fuel Oil

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, during the time the Member was asking the question I did go through my briefing book, but unfortunately, it is not in there. I have not been able to download it from memory so I will find it and give to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 174-13(4): Price of Fuel Oil

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister can be so kind when he gets this information downloaded from the long-term memory banks that he has, if he could also download the information on the difference between the price of oil that was purchased back at that time and the price of oil today, because there is a concern of the changing oil prices. I would like to know if he could do a comparison, because they are saying now that the price of oil is going up and it is going to drive the cost of heat up. I would like to know if he could do a comparison. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister, Mr. Arlooktoo. Again, to remind the Members that when you are asking for details, that are not within the Minister's knowledge or you know that the Minister might not be able to answer, that you put it in written form, so that you do have the appropriate Minister respond and in the appropriate manner. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 174-13(4): Price of Fuel Oil

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, yes, I can find that information. What I do recall is that one of the reasons that we did change, or we did award the contract to that particular company was in fact the savings. It was cheaper to do it the way we did it then.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 175-13(4): Eligibility for Social Housing When in Arrears

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Goo Arlooktoo. There is a concern, Mr. Speaker, that has come up over the last few weeks with people who have arrears in one community, and then move to another community and have no housing available. Now when they apply for their housing, they cannot get a house because they might have had arrears in the previous community, and thus they have no place to live, and in some cases, they have had to live in tents or shacks while waiting for proper housing. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of housing, on this policy is there any leeway in this policy on arrears, what happens when a family has arrears, it does not have a house in January, living in a tent? Maybe, the Minister could tell us the policy and explain the parameters of said policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 175-13(4): Eligibility for Social Housing When in Arrears

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

I am not aware of situations where families are living in tents anywhere in the NWT because of old arrears.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 175-13(4): Eligibility for Social Housing When in Arrears

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the Minister for that clarification. Now the parameters here on the housing arrears is a delicate one. Mr. Speaker, if you do not allow someone to go into a social housing unit and then subtract the arrears that they owed previously, you will never get that money. I

have seen that come up now in the past few weeks in Iqaluit with certain instances, so much I have brought to the Minister, where a person has moved to Iqaluit and has a family, has arrears in another community, and then when they go to housing they cannot get a house. So, if they do not have a house from housing, how can they pay their arrears? So would not it be more conducive for the government to say, we will take you in the house for three months, and because that person is working now, on the basis of work or employment, then they can start paying off

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the debt from before. Because if you do not put them in the house, how are you going to collect his money. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, I do not think the Housing Corporation or the housing association is running around all over the Northwest Territories looking for people who have arrears. So, maybe, is that an opportunity for the Minister to direct his officials to look at the parameters?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 175-13(4): Eligibility for Social Housing When in Arrears

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the local housing organization in the communities are the ones that are responsible for the collection of rents and arrears and enforcing those policies. If a community decides to make an exception, I would imagine that would be the community's choice, but you would be, I would think, setting a precedent where there are a fair number of individuals that have arrears that are paying those arrears, to pay them off and also to be eligible once again for social housing. The situation in Iqaluit that the Member brought up, I have reviewed that particular case. I would not comment on it specifically here, but I would say that the individual will have to pay the arrears first before being considered by the housing organization.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 175-13(4): Eligibility for Social Housing When in Arrears

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what we are seeing here is a situation where we are putting a lot of pressure on the local housing authority, because these rules and policies are in place. Now, with January and February, if people do not pay arrears and then when they try to seek a house, I am not talking about eviction, I am talking about people actually looking for housing, they cannot get those houses because they have arrears. What I am saying to the Minister is, would he direct his departmental officials to say, if Ed Picco has a job, I apply for a house, I have got arrears, yes. But under the condition they will give me a house, and they will deduct X-number of dollars off my pay to pay back my arrears. The situation here, Mr. Speaker, is that we have such a need for housing, we have such a shortage for housing, I mean, how long can we go on penalizing these people? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Most people want to pay their rents.

Further Return To Question 175-13(4): Eligibility for Social Housing When in Arrears

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, it is not a matter of penalizing people. It is having tenants living up to their obligations and having them pay their rent, just like everybody else. The thing that I would point out is that there are 3,500 individuals in the NWT that are on waiting lists for housing, and the numbers that we have with our current tenants is that most of them are good tenants that pay their rents in full and on time. For the individuals that do not pay rent on time, if that person cannot or is evicted from a house or cannot get in, there are another 100 people waiting behind them that will take that house and will pay for it on time.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 175-13(4): Eligibility for Social Housing When in Arrears

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand the situation, we are trying to get monies paid and arrears. My question here is the fairness of that, given that when someone, all kinds of calamities could happen to people and they cannot pay their rent or they fall behind. They might be four months behind. Then, when they move from the community they have arrears because they are taking a job, in Iqaluit let us say for example, so they still owe four months back rent because they might have lost their job in Arctic Bay or Pond Inlet or wherever. But they cannot get the house because they had that four months arrears, they have no place to live. I am saying, is there something we can do here for those types of people? We are a caring government, I am asking the Minister. at least look at situations like that, because there are unique situations.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 175-13(4): Eligibility for Social Housing When in Arrears

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I think it would be up to that individual to try and make arrangements to pay off their arrears. Otherwise, if we did make a special case for an individual like the one that the Member is talking about, what of the 70 to 100 families in Iqaluit that are waiting for a house and that have no arrears and that pay their rent on time. That would be my response.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 176-13(4): Services to Community Libraries

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Education.

(Translation ends) In Arctic Bay, we have been receiving books through the community that have been ordered by mail, and we have books that we have been receiving from Iqaluit library. My question is to the Minister, who will do that when the librarian is laid off? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Education, Culture, and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 176-13(4): Services to Community Libraries

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all of the community libraries in the Northwest Territories will continue to support each other by providing books to communities as required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

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Supplementary To Question 176-13(4): Services to Community Libraries

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends) ... will the Baffin library group, the NWTTA, or any regional group be consulted on the regional librarian lay off? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 176-13(4): Services to Community Libraries

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any consultations with the NWTTA or other groups in terms of the lay offs. As I have said, we operate in other regions of the Northwest Territories without regional librarians. We seem to be able to provide services to people in communities quite well in all those other regions, and we are confident that we can continue to do so in the Keewatin and the Baffin without the regional librarians. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 176-13(4): Services to Community Libraries

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with Baffin's regional board we are creating books in Inuktitut, and

these books have been sent to schools. Now, the librarian is mostly involved in this area. How is this going to be processed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 176-13(4): Services to Community Libraries

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Mr. Speaker, I fail to see how that question relates to the regional librarian position. The Baffin Divisional Educational Council, used to be called a board. I am sure it will still continue to develop resource materials in the Inuktitut language, whether there is a regional librarian in place or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 177-13(4): Funding for Construction of the Fort McPherson School

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education in regards to the Chief Julius School that is presently being constructed in Fort McPherson. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier on in the week in regards to the construction of this school, which direction was given by the community in consultation with the department, to proceed with the construction of the Chief Julius School in March 1996, with a full-sized gym. Now the community is being told that they will have to pick up the cost difference for the size of that gym, which is in the area of \$300,000. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, the insurance policy in regards to the school states that the insurance settlement shall be based on the cost of replacing the school. Mr. Speaker, the previous school that was destroyed in the fire did have a full size gymnasium, so I would like to ask the Minister if that is the case, why are they not covering the full cost of this gymnasium?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Education, Culture, and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 177-13(4): Funding for Construction of the Fort McPherson School

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Mr. Speaker, not being an insurance adjuster, I have some difficulty answering that detailed question. I will have to ask my department to talk to the people who deal with the insurance companies, I believe they are with FMBS or finance and will try to get an answer for the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 177-13(4): Funding for Construction of the Fort McPherson School

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, the school has been destroyed in the fire over a year ago which is presently being constructed, and hopefully will come to an end within the next couple of months. Could I have the Minister commit to put his department to try and resolve this issue before school is completed and open, so that we do not have to deal with this matter after the doors are open for the school?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 177-13(4): Funding for Construction of the Fort McPherson School

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Mr. Speaker, I think that the department has been sympathetic to this request in the past, but I think it is necessary to point out that the department block funded the construction of this school with the Beaufort/Delta Divisional Education Council. The Beaufort/Delta Education Council was aware, from the very beginning, from the time they signed the agreement with the department, of what the total funds would be for this school. There were some areas of flexibility we thought they might be able to take advantage of, but it is entirely up to the Beaufort/Delta Education Council to work within the funds which this government has underwritten to provide them to build this school. So, Mr. Speaker, in the eyes of education, culture, and employment, we have fulfilled our part. We have done what we can to try and assist the Member and the community to find other ways to pay for an expanded gym, but we were

very clear upfront. There is a limit to the number of dollars provided to build this school, and we have signed off on that agreement with the Beaufort/Delta Education Council outlining exactly what those funds are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 177-13(4): Funding for Construction of the Fort McPherson School

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MR. KRUTKO:

Point of order. Could I ask for unanimous consent to extend the question period?

MR. SPEAKER:

The member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 177-13(4): Funding for Construction of the Fort McPherson School

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have raised in many question periods, in questions to the Minister about the whole idea of the gymnasium, that is why I raised the question about the insurance policy which clearly states that the insurance is to cover the replacement cost of the school that was destroyed. In that school was a full-sized gymnasium, so why is the government not agreeing to cover the cost to complete a full-sized gymnasium?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 177-13(4): Funding for Construction of the Fort McPherson School

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I have already answered this question. There is a signed agreement between Education, Culture, and Employment, and the Beaufort/Delta Education Council for the full cost

of the replacement of the school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 177-13(4): Funding for Construction of the Fort McPherson School

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister have his department review the file on this school and be clear in regards to the question asked by myself, in regards to the whole question about insurance and also the amount that it was going to cost to replace that school?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 177-13(4): Funding for Construction of the Fort McPherson School

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a response to a question earlier this week by the Member when he asked whether I could get back to him in terms of outline what the proceeds from the insurance would be, I sent him a letter in which I stated that I could not say what the proceeds would be from the insurance, because we do not know yet for sure. We are working on the assumption that it will cover the cost, but I can tell the Member that, in the past, we have had some problems. For instance, when the school in Apex burned down, we did not receive all the proceeds from insurance that we had expected. We do not really know until the negotiations are finished with the insurance company exactly what we are going to get. I cannot specifically answer the Member's question at this point in time, and expect to have the answer in two or three months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 178-13(4): NWT Diamonds Project Environmental Agreement

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to Mr. Kakfwi, Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development. Last week, the Minister made a statement on the NWT Diamonds Project Environmental Agreement. The Minister told us about the make up of the group. He told us what the mandate was, but there was no reference as to who or what group was responsible for funding this monitoring group. My question to the Minister is who or what group is responsible for the funding of this NWT Diamonds Project Environment Agreement? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 178-13(4): NWT Diamonds Project Environmental Agreement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that BHP is providing the funds for the establishment of that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 178-13(4): NWT Diamonds Project Environmental Agreement

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, industry is praying for this environmental agreement committee. Can the Minister tell me of any staffs that will be required for this organization and under whose authority will they work. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 178-13(4): NWT Diamonds Project Environmental Agreement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker. There is a monitoring agency that is set up as a result of this agreement, and there are no particular staff that are being set up at this time. The information and the agency itself is being looked at by the implementation group to ensure that this

monitoring agency is set up and is given adequate support by existing resources. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 178-13(4): NWT Diamonds Project Environmental Agreement

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The monitoring group, the monitoring agency, I take it that is what you are talking about. So, each of the groups in that monitoring agency is participating work, is there no one at this stage coordinating that work? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 178-13(4): NWT Diamonds Project Environmental Agreement

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HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the federal government is responsible at this time for monitoring the activities of companies that are operating on crown lands at this time. This is done primarily through the existing regulatory regimes, such as the Water Licensing Board, the land use permits, and other regimes that the federal government has in place. This monitoring agency that we have set up was specifically called for by the environmental groups, the aboriginal communities, and our government. The federal government came out as a condition for approval of the project that such a monitoring agency should be set up.

The monitoring agency was specifically reviewed the activities of BHP and the governments in regard to how the development proceeds and how the governments live up to their own obligations in regard to existing laws and agreements. That is what this monitoring agency will be doing. It is being set up at this time to do just that. An implementation group is in place to facilitate the establishment of that monitoring agency. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 178-13(4): NWT
Diamonds Project Environmental Agreement

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that information Mr. Kakfwi. So, it is the federal government who has taken the initiative to at least coordinate this monitoring agency. What is the budget for this agency? The Minister has told us that BHP are responsible for the funds. Can he tell us how much of the budget has been set for the next fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 178-13(4): NWT
Diamonds Project Environmental Agreement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the monitoring agency itself will be required to have meetings and to have an information system in place for it to function properly. I am not clear at this time how it will operate and who will be providing the different requirements that need to be met in order for it to function properly. I do know that it is our expectation by the first week of April, that this monitoring agency will be in place. So, as the information becomes available, I would be pleased to provide to Members which parties will be providing money for the establishment and operation of this agency, who will be paying for their travel, and their meetings and how the information, the reports will be provided to this group, the data, and the information that will be required for them to do their proper monitoring role. All this will be provided to them. I will be pleased to do that, when it becomes available to myself as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 179-13(4): Funding for Alcohol and Drug
Programs

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question at this time will be directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, a number of days ago in the House I questioned the Minister on some information regarding funding that we spend on alcohol and drug

programs. I would like to know if the Minister has had the opportunity to get that information. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 179-13(4): Funding for Alcohol
and Drug Programs

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that at the time I advised the honourable Member that my recollection is \$4 million dollars that were spent in this current fiscal year, approximately for residential alcohol and drug treatment centres, and another approximately \$4 million spent in community based alcohol and drug programming. If the honourable Member is asking for the specifics, then obviously I would be pleased to provide that but it would take a bit of time to put that together, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 179-13(4): Funding for
Alcohol and Drug Programs

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister have the information, and if he does could he provide it to me on the funding that this government receives from the federal government through the NADAP program, Native Alcohol and Drug program? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 179-13(4): Funding for
Alcohol and Drug Programs

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can obtain that information through the Department of Finance and provide it to the honourable Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Picco.

Question 180-13(4): Nunavut Supreme Court Justice

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, in response to a question that I asked in November, the Minister for Justice came back with the reply concerning the Supreme Court judge appointment. Mr. Speaker, in the written reply to my oral question from November, the Minister of Justice responded by saying that incremental costs paid a very important role before he could get this Supreme Court justice appointed. Can the Minister tell me and tell the House, has the Department of Justice looked at an actual dollar figure that we will be looking at from the federal Department of Justice to have the incremental cost included, so that we can have the Supreme Court justice up and running in Nunavut as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice. Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 180-13(4): Nunavut Supreme Court Justice

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HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, not at this time, because it was planned to do this within the contents of the division implementation plans that the departments will be undergoing in the next several weeks and trying to roll that together in the development of a justice system for both territories, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 180-13(4): Nunavut Supreme Court Justice

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question to the Minister is on the consultation in Nunavut with the judicial people there on the ground. I understand there is some concern that we do not have a Supreme Court justice or judge based in the region, as promised in this House, I guess in the past and over this life of the Assembly. Can the Minister tell the House what consultations in this issue have been held to date with the judiciary in Nunavut?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 180-13(4): Nunavut Supreme Court Justice

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No consultation has been done to date with the judiciary on this matter based in Iqaluit. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 180-13(4): Nunavut Supreme Court Justice

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to think that Nunavut begins and ends in Iqaluit, but it does not. My question was in Nunavut, as he said there was no consultation in Iqaluit, was there any consultation anywhere in Nunavut?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 180-13(4): Nunavut Supreme Court Justice

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just assumed that the honourable Member was speaking about Iqaluit because he so often refers to it in the context of Nunavut, and no, there have not been any consultations by that same vein in any areas of Nunavut, along those lines, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 180-13(4): Nunavut Supreme Court Justice

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister referring to Iqaluit and the more publicity we get the better. However, after saying that Mr. Speaker, he said there was no consultation, my

supplementary question to the Minister will he be consulting with the judiciary, the judges, the court workers in Nunavut to see about the need for this position, that I understand that we need asap, will he be doing some consultation with the judiciary in Nunavut?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 180-13(4): Nunavut Supreme Court Justice

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will take it within the context of soliciting input on it. I do not know if it will be direct consultations with the judiciary in respect to the establishment of a Supreme Court judge for the Nunavut territory. However, I do recognize where the Member is coming from. I just did not know if it would be proper to solicit that information. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 181-13(4): Environmental Contaminants from Mining Activity

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to honourable Member Stephen Kakfwi, Minister of Renewable Resources. My question is, has there been any study of games that are feeding, either by water or by land, what kinds of affects, or what kinds of disease these games have taken in their body from these mines? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister responsible for Resource, Wildlife, and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return to Question 181-13(4): Environmental Contaminants from Mining Activity

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I must ask if the Member could ask the question again. I missed the first part of the question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 181-13(4): Environmental Contaminants from Mining Activity

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My concern is that the animals that we eat, like seals, or caribou, or rabbit, that are eating from the ground or are living in the water. What kind of effects or diseases they contribute from the mines around these areas? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 181-13(4): Environmental Contaminants from Mining Activity

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, recently there was a conference in Iqaluit that was put together by the Inuit Arctic Polar Commission, that dealt specifically with Arctic contaminants. There were a series of recommendations made in there. At this time, it is not possible for me to say exactly how much pollution is done by mining activity, by existing mines, by previous mines, and whether those come from substances that are used in the actual mining operation or

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whether these were substances that were transported and left at the mine sites, substances that were used in previous decades that are now considered hazardous or toxic. All the activities at this time are being looked at. Some of them are being reviewed by the federal government. For instance, Rae Rock Mines, which is a big concern to the Dogrib leadership, has had some extensive work done by the federal government in the last year. It is about 95 percent complete, containing the tailings pond, closing up the mine openings and taking other remedial work to deal with the hazardous elements that were left unattended to at the Rae Rock Mines. I am not certain if I am anywhere near where the Member wants me to be in terms of responding to the question, but in keeping with your direction, Mr. Speaker, I will stop right there. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. I would like to at this time recognize Chief John T'Seleie. John is the Chief of Fort Good Hope. Welcome to the Assembly, John.

-- Applause

John is also a former Member of the Legislative Assembly. I had to wake up so I had to do this. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 182-13(4): Funding for the Construction of the Fort McPherson School

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. It is in regards to the unresolved issue of financing for the construction of the Chief Julius School in Fort McPherson. Is there a possibility that myself and the divisional board and the community of Fort McPherson can sit down to resolve this issue before the completion of construction?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 182-13(4): Funding for the Construction of the Fort McPherson School

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my opinion this issue is resolved. The department has an agreement with the divisional educational council for the funding. The department has worked with MACA and the community to try and find other alternatives, and I have informed the House earlier this week, we have not been able to find any alternatives. There is no other option that I can offer the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 182-13(4): Funding for the Construction of the Fort McPherson School

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, that is real helpful, especially when you have something unresolved, you usually try to sit down and resolve. So I would like to ask the Minister again, will he sit down with the divisional board of education in Inuvik to resolve this issue of construction of the school in Fort McPherson?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 182-13(4): Funding for the Construction of the Fort McPherson School

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the difference of opinion here is to whether or not the issue is resolved. The last conversation I had with the chair of the Beaufort Divisional Education Council gave me no reason to believe that the issue was not resolved. As far as I am aware, the education council agreed with the amount of money that we had put forward. That is why they signed off on the agreement stipulating the number of dollars available to replace the school in the community. Mr. Speaker, I am always available to meet with Members and to meet with divisional education councils. I want to make sure the Member does not get the impression we are going to be in a position to find more dollars for this school. We have looked, we have tried, they are not available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 182-13(4): Funding for the Construction of the Fort McPherson School

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If this issue was not raised by my constituents to raise it in this House, I would not be bringing it up, but it is a concern of my constituents. I do not believe that a community should have to go out of its way to find funds to develop infrastructure in those communities, which is the sole responsibility of this government. Will this government consider looking at the possibility of a supplementary appropriation if there is a need for over-expenditures on the construction of this school, in which have happened in the past in regard to capital expenditures which ran over the amount that was allocated?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 182-13(4): Funding for the Construction of the Fort McPherson School

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Mr. Speaker, the community made a choice knowing full well that choice was not going to be funded by this government. So I am afraid I have to answer the question by saying I would certainly not be recommending to FMBS that we consider a supplementary appropriation for that amount in this circumstance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 182-13(4): Funding for the Construction of the Fort McPherson School

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I have the Minister of the department give me a listing of all cost overruns in previous constructions of schools in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 182-13(4): Funding for the Construction of the Fort McPherson School

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HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that would be, I think, an excessive amount of work to expect. Those numbers would have been significant would be available to the Member and all Members of this House through previous supplementary appropriations. So, it is already a matter of public record and I do not think it is productive for me to commit staff to performing that service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 183-13(4): Community Economic Development Agreement

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd. I recall in last year's budget address, the Minister identified \$5,000,000 onto the community economic development program through Mr. Kakwi's office. I note that in his comments he had stated that every cent of the program, Mr. Speaker, will be invested in our communities. This program was initiated to create long and short term jobs over the past couple of years, and in the next year. Yellowknife has lost substantial jobs, and we can certainly do with funds to help promote Yellowknife as a city and help replace some of the jobs that we have lost through downsizing and government lay offs. My question to the Minister is, will he consider a program this year of similar nature to help Yellowknife, which is the hub and which does pay substantial amounts of taxes and contributes to the NWT economy. Will the Minister consider a program such as this for Yellowknife in particular? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 183-13(4): Community Economic Development Agreement

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have spoken at some length with my honourable colleague and other colleagues from Yellowknife and indicated some sympathy with the fact that even on a percentage wise, they are taking cuts similar to other constituencies, but numbers, there is a great deal more. We are open to any suggestions that come forward, provided they are affordable and make sense. So, I guess the answer would be we will not close the door to any proposals or suggestions that come forward from Yellowknife, Inuvik, Rankin, Iqaluit, wherever. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Erasmus.

Question 184-13(4): Nunavut Infrastructure Operational Costs

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. On Monday, January 27th, the honourable Member for Thebacha had questioned the Minister concerning infrastructure that is being put into Nunavut and there are some buildings that will be built prior to division. The Member had wanted to know who will be paying for the O and M costs for those buildings. The Finance Minister had indicated, according to Hansard, the unedited version, that "the O and M costs have to come from the federal government, from what would fall on the incremental side". Mr. Speaker, I would like clarification whether the territorial government has to expend those funds first and then get reimbursed from the federal government, hopefully get reimbursed, or will the federal government be paying those O and M costs directly, or how will that happen? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 184-13(4): Nunavut Infrastructure Operational Costs

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To be very frank with my honourable colleague, I do not have the direct answer to that question. However, it is part of and will be part of the discussions that will get under way in March in relationship to the bi-partisan committee that I talked about in response yesterday with respect to the fiscal frameworks for the two new territories. So, I think it is a legitimate question to be asked and it will be on the top of the agenda when we move with the officials committee some time in March to discuss the process, procedures, et cetera, with respect to formula financing and of course it will have to be discussed as it will be, what I call a pre-implementation expenditure, and I think I would say, unless I am told otherwise, that if it is a pre-implementation expenditure and it is new infrastructure that is funded by the federal government, my inclination would be that they would have to pay their own end. But again, those discussion will get under way in March and we are going to keep everybody up to date on these discussion as we move forward with them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary to Question 184-13(4): Nunavut Infrastructure Operational Costs

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have indicated in the past, the Nunavut government should be designed and implemented by the people of Nunavut, however, their government should not affect the level of programs and services in the western NWT. I would hope that we would be informed as soon as possible as to how the federal government plans to deal with this. Can I get a commitment from the Finance Minister that we are informed as soon as possible? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return to Question 184-13(4): Nunavut Infrastructure Operational Costs

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. In an effort to alleviate people's fear as it relates to the discussions with respect to money, we have worked very hard the last three or four months to convince the federal government that we need all parties to the table when we are talking money. I was pleased to announce in the budget and to reassure everybody yesterday, as I will today, that, in fact we have accomplished that. That we will have all parties to the table, including, if you like, western representation through a selection process from a variety of groups that are working on the constitution in the western Arctic.

That is the first thing. I think it is important to say that again, there will be broad based representation at the financial table. At the same time, if there is any progression on this issue

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prior to that group meeting, I will be only too happy to share on a timely and on going basis that information with my colleagues through the Division Committee, through the Government Operations Committee and in this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary to Question 184-13(4): Nunavut Infrastructure Operational Costs

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the reasons for getting rid of staff housing is that sometimes they are left empty, and I am sure we do not want to be paying for empty buildings that are built in preparation for governments which may or may not be put into some of the smaller communities. Can we get a commitment that every effort will be made to try and get the federal government to pay for the O and M, and not have our government pay for it and then try to be re-imbursed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return to Question 184-13(4): Nunavut Infrastructure Operational Costs

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important to point that, as I said, my inclination, my instincts are to say that any additional infrastructure that are built prior to April 1st, 1999, and specifically designed for the Nunavut government, which will be funded through a cooperative approach between the federal government and NTI. My inclination is to say, and I can have it corrected, is that the operation and maintenance cost would be the responsibility of the federal government. Whether they would pay it directly, or this government would reach some agreement to be re-imbursed, I do not know at this time. But I want to assure my colleague that I am very much aware of the concern as it relates to the money, I am very much aware of the concern as it relates to not taking away from services in the west, and I am very much aware of the concern that we must have a balance as we move forward on the fiscal side and I will continue to do that to the best of my ability and keep everybody up to date as to the discussions as they progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Henry.

Question 185-13(4): Hiring Priority for Nunavut Positions

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. I had asked the Minister of Finance yesterday this question, along with a lot of other ones and I do not believe I got an answer to it, so I will try again. On pages 9 and 10 of the Minister's budget address, I noted at the top of page 10 in particular, a comment that, "existing GNWT headquarters staff should have hiring priority on Nunavut positions for which they are qualified." My question to the Minister is directly, should the word "should", have been "must"? In other words, should it have read existing GNWT headquarters staff must have hiring priority on Nunavut positions for which they are qualified? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return to Question 185-13(4): Hiring Priority for Nunavut Positions

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We used the word "should", I believe, not "must".

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary to Question 185-13(4): Hiring Priority for Nunavut Positions

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister is correct, that is what is here, "the staff should". My question is, is it not the government's position that existing headquarters staff must have hiring priority on Nunavut positions for which they are qualified? Is that not this government's position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return to Question 185-13(4): Hiring Priority for Nunavut Positions

HON. JOHN TODD:

The government's position is that, people who are outside of Nunavut, who may have Nunavut related

jobs should be given first priority in the recruitment of jobs that will be required outside of the Nunavut geography where people currently reside.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary to Question 185-13(4): Hiring Priority for Nunavut Positions

MR. HENRY:

Mr. Speaker, I am rather confused by Mr. Todd's answer. Is it not this government's position that GNWT headquarters staff must have hiring priority for Nunavut positions for which they are qualified? Yes or no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return to Question 185-13(4): Hiring Priority for Nunavut Positions

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, I am really reluctant to say yes or no because when I say yes or no both Mr. Picco and Mr. O'Brien in the House accuse me of only short answers, so I think what I would like to say to Mr. Henry is, I understand why he is asking the questions, but we are but one signatory to the Nunavut arrangement, there are two other signatories, the federal government and NTI. We are trying to imply and, to the best of our ability demonstrate in a carefully crafted way, what our position is in relationship to our staff who do not reside within the geography of Nunavut. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 186-13(4): Funding for the Western Constitutional Process

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MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was confused by Mr. Todd's response to Mr. Steen on the \$1 million allocated in the budget referred to on page 8 of Mr. Todd's budget address for the western constitutional

development process. Mr. Speaker, this one million dollars did not come up in the business plan of infrastructure. I would like to know from the Minister where this money came from.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return to Question 186-13(4): Funding for the Western Constitutional Process

HON. JOHN TODD:

Nothing confusing about it, Mr. Speaker, it came forward to the FMB as a supplementary appropriation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary to Question 186-13(4): Funding for the Western Constitutional Process

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is coming through the supplementary appropriation now a way of scurrying around the Standing Committee on Infrastructure and other standing committees of this government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return to Question 186-13(4): Funding for the Western Constitutional Process

HON. JOHN TODD:

No need to scurry anywhere, Mr. Speaker. We follow the rules and regulations in accordance with the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary to Question 186-13(4): Funding for the Western Constitutional Process

MR. PICCO:

Thank you. That is disappointing, Mr. Speaker, because the Committee had recommended, and I will

read you the committee report, "that the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs during this process explained that they intended to provide one-third of the funding necessary for the process and that they expected the federal government to provide the other two-thirds." Can Mr. Todd now explain to me if that \$1 million is covering one-third of this \$3 million expenditure for the western constitutional development process? What is going on here? I was not briefed on it, it did not come through the committee as we would have expected.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return to Question 186-13(4): Funding for the Western Constitutional Process

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am afraid my honourable colleague, as usual, has got the issue mixed up. The constitutional process is a completely separate entity to self-government arrangements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary to Question 186-13(4): Funding for the Western Constitutional Process

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not used these type of barbs and catcalls. My question, Mr. Speaker, I just cannot explain the depth of my frustration with this line of questioning, so Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question to the Minister is, maybe he could explain the difference between western constitutional development and aboriginal self-government talks, because even that is not here in our budget, the million dollars, like I said it is not in the business plan. So, as I said, it does not matter one way or the other. If it is not with constitutional development, if it is not the other area, where is it coming from?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, I must rule the question out of order. The question should be more appropriate to the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Constitutional Affairs. Oral questions. Oral questions, Mr. Picco.

Question 187-13(4): Funding for Aboriginal Self-Government Negotiations

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the budget address given by the Finance Minister there is one million dollars identified for self-government talks. I understand now, in conversation with the Finance Minister, that this appeared in a supplementary appropriation. Can the Minister tell me where the authorization for the \$1 million came from, to put the \$1 million into a supplementary appropriation?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Further Return to Question 187-13(4): Funding for Aboriginal Self-Government Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, Mr. Speaker, the supplementary is not in the House, but the normal process, for Mr. Picco's benefit, is that a department or a Minister will bring forward a supplementary appropriation to the FMB who have the responsibility to approve expenditures for this government, and they would approve it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary to Question 187-13(4): Funding for Aboriginal Self-Government Negotiations

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, because I really do not understand very much, maybe the Minister could explain to me, is it regular process then, to bring forward such a supplementary appropriation without going through the standing committee that would be responsible for that department?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return to Question 187-13(4): Funding for Aboriginal Self-Government Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification for my good friend from Iqaluit, the supplementary appropriation would obviously have to be approved by the House.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary to Question 187-13(4): Funding for Aboriginal Self-Government Negotiations

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question was does it have to go to the standing committee before hand, not about the House. He did not answer my question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return to Question 187-13(4): Funding for Aboriginal Self-Government Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

It depends on the circumstances, if it is part of the overall business plan, et cetera, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Final Supplementary to Question 187-13(4): Funding for Aboriginal Self-Government Negotiations

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was not in the business plan, that was my point. So, maybe, the Minister could explain where it came from, if it was not in the business plan, but the FMBS, the department that Mr. Todd is in control of, chair of, approved it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 187-13(4): Funding for Aboriginal Self-Government Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It came from Mr. Antoine. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions.

Speaker's Ruling

At this time, the Chair would like to make a ruling. Before we proceed to item 7, written questions, I would like to provide to the House my ruling on the written question posed by the Member for Hay River yesterday regarding support programs for seniors. As Members will recall, I indicated that the preamble to written questions should be very brief and the question should not raise a debate. Our rules stipulate that written questions are to be used when a Member is seeking information which requires, and I quote from Rule 39(1): "a detailed or complex answer which would not reasonably be assumed to be within the present knowledge of the Minister", end of quote. After reviewing the unedited Hansard from yesterday, I wish to offer some comments and advice regarding written questions that I hope will assist all Members.

Written questions differ from oral questions in that they should be used to seek information that is complex or detailed in nature. A good example of this is the question posed by Mr. Rabesca yesterday when he asked a written question regarding cancer statistics. The information he sought was detailed and a reasonable assumption was that it was not information within the Minister's present knowledge, nor would it have been easily accessible.

In addition to clarifying the general nature of written questions, I would also like to comment on restrictions covering the form and content of written questions. Citation 428 in Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, 6th edition, lays out the list of prohibitions and includes matters such as and I quote: "a question must not contain an expression or of opinion, nor be a speech however short, nor be of unreasonable length nor to be framed so as to suggest its own answer". I find that the Member for Hay River's written question yesterday approaches the terms of these and other restrictions. However, I will allow her question to stand but I offer you these comments with the hope that all Members will in the future pay closer attention to the form and content of written questions. As your speaker I want to provide wide latitude to Members in asking your question and seeking information from the government. However, I will also enforce the rules. Written questions, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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Written Question 7-13(4): Over Budgeted Capital Projects

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question will be directed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Will the Minister provide this House a list of all capital projects in which the final cost exceeded the original budget among the departments for the last five years?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Written questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Written Question 8-13(4): Housing Corporation Revenues and Expenditures

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These questions are directed to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, the Honourable Goo Arlooktoo. First, how much money did the NWT Housing Corporation spend on capital in 1996-97? Second, how much money did the NWT Housing Corporation receive from the federal government for the remote housing initiative 1996-97? Third, how much money will the NWT Housing Corporation have to give back to CMHC as a result of not proceeding with the rent scale increases that were slated for this spring? Fourth, will the current rebate program remain in place in 1997-98 considering the one year delay in implementing the rent scale increases? Fifth, how much money has this government lost over the last three years as a result of the delay in implementation of the new rent scale? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, replies to budget address. Mr. Roland.

ITEM 10: REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS

Replies to Budget Address 3-13(4)

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, honourable colleagues, this is the second budget of the 13th Assembly. The first one we had no pressures from the

previous round of budget implications. Many of us were new to this level of government. I believe that we were aware of the road that lies ahead. I remember being told by the people in my community of Inuvik that they did not envy the position that we were in. I also heard that this was not a good time to be in government. But for better or worse we spin ahead down the path of budget reductions and we have now travelled this road of reductions for a year. We have heard the concerns from the people and the organizations as they have tried and continue to try and deal with the reductions that have been delivered to them by this 13th Assembly.

And it is with these concerns we enter into a second year of reductions with the message of the pain being felt back in our home communities. As we took part in the business plans trying to address their concerns and fears, and unlike other assemblies, as Ordinary Members we have had the opportunity to try to influence the direction of this government with those concerns and fears from our communities.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard around this table, this House, comments like those made by Mr. Seamus Henry, where he states, I quote from the unedited Hansard on Wednesday, January 29th, in reference to the City of Yellowknife..."the city has taken a blow and is limping a bit, and we are down but certainly not out". Mr. Speaker, I would like to state that Inuvik has taken a large amount of reductions. And we have no new projects on the horizon that will help us rebound from the reductions. Mr. Speaker, there are communities that will receive a positive benefit from having large scale productions on their horizon. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I feel that Inuvik is somewhat out on a limb here to be able to access some of the positive influences there. I hope that we will though, to some degree.

Mr. Speaker it can be said that Inuvik cannot even limp. Instead, we need a prosthesis from the government, possibly from the knee down. Maybe, Mr. Speaker, the government could provide my community with a cart so we could at least get to the street and beg from those who have.

Mr Speaker, my community and the region have felt that for years. Mr. Speaker, I have concern with the message this government sends out. I relate this to raising children because I have four of my own, Mr. Speaker. I think that they learn more by watching than what they do, by what I say to them. Mr. Speaker, I

say this because the people have heard what this Legislature has said, and watched what we have done. And although we have tried to deal with our community issues and concerns in committees we still find there are negative impacts being felt in our communities. It is these negative impacts that we seem to focus on.

Mr. Speaker, for over a year now I have listened in committee, Caucus and in this Assembly about what we are trying to do as a government with the task that lie before us of balancing a budget with the forced growth issues that lie before us, a population that is the fastest growing in Canada. With the problems we have socially with alcoholism and drug abuse. With the low levels of education amongst the native people.

Mr. Speaker, it is not easy to see people that you know in your community go unemployed. It is not easy to sit in a meeting and be there as the Board of Delta House is told that their funding will be cut. I know there are times when I would rather not be part of it at all, but I got into this because I was concerned just exactly how those reductions would happen.

I got involved because of my children and my concern for their education and health, and them having the ability to take part in a healthy environment. I wanted to make sure that the community of Inuvik, at the end of the day when reductions were done would still be a viable community to live in, that would have an education system that will allow them to go wherever and be equal to those who have been educated in other places. I want them to have the ability when they become ill, to be able to get access to health care without having to wait long periods of time for medication or treatment.

I said in an interview not long ago that I do not have to defend what this government has put forward as reductions. I do not believe that it is my job to defend the decisions that are made. Although I have had an opportunity to address the concerns of my constituents in Inuvik, there are still times when I have to mention about it a second time, a third time. I know things are not easy to change in the government system. I have been made aware of that in my slightly over a year of being elected here in the 13th Assembly.

I know the people of Inuvik are healthy. We are able to deal with the problems that come our way. We have done so for some time. We have managed to work our way out of when the oil companies started to

leave the Delta. We lost a lot of jobs then. We dealt with the issue of the armed forces leaving the community of Inuvik. We have managed to seem to go through that and I am sure, Mr. Speaker that the community of Inuvik will rise above all the controversies that are happening and deal with the reductions being felt, when it comes to budget reductions being brought forward by this government I feel that we can do this, but a lot of people and folks in Inuvik are very concerned about what lies ahead. The government a few years ago started selling staff housing. Offered it to employees and other people of the community. And the people took them up and bought those houses. A few years later, a number of those people now have pink slips. The community of Inuvik, the taxed based municipality, the town council is now finding difficulty in collecting some of the taxes because people do not have jobs to pay the taxes.

I think, Mr. Speaker, we need to start, as a government, focusing on what can be done and instead of what cannot be done. I need to be able to go back to my community some time soon and tell them there is some light at the end of this tunnel. That there is some opportunity there that we can grasp on to. To try and deal with some of the reductions that have come through our community.

Mr. Speaker, I have been down and spent a lot of my time in Yellowknife since being elected and I have seen, as has been commented before, the growth that is happening around the City of Yellowknife, especially when it is mentioned as the third fastest growing city. I see that when I walk around Yellowknife or go to a restaurant to eat a meal. My Speaker, in my community of Inuvik, when you go down to a restaurant you do not find it full of people. You do not have to make reservations. Some restaurants have had to lay off their staff and run it as just an owner, to keep the doors open. I am sure a lot of those business people do not like going to the government for hand outs, to try and stay open but they are finding they have to do that.

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So I would say and urge this government to start focusing on what can be done. How can we help the people in the communities hardest hit by the reductions in the budget? I say this because I feel Inuvik for two years has taken a large amount of reductions. I am being reminded by community members, by the council, and I think I have the support of people in Inuvik when I say that Inuvik wants to be treated fairly and does not support the

idea of more reductions continuing on. They accept the fact that reductions are coming. The concern is, are they fair and just?

Inuvik has never really had to rely heavily on government, but we are finding, over the years, we have had to turn more and more to government and the community is not all that good at going out with its hands open and saying, can you give me?

We have been disappointed by a number of things that past governments have done and were disappointed, no doubt, by some of the decisions made by this government. When I go back home to my community and I talk to the people, if they address their concerns, some of them I say, well, where do we get the funds from? We have to deal with the budget, we have to be able to make sure that our future generations have an opportunity to be successful, instead of paying a big debt.

I have compared coming to Yellowknife and going to committee and on the political level we seem to have an understanding of where we need to go and how to do it. I have compared that to a river that flows down, and on a nice day, as the sun shines, the top is clear, calm, and you get a nice reflection and you feel comforted. You have this peaceful feeling. Like I say, at times I feel comforted that we all seem to politically agree on the same thing. But when you get past the surface, Mr. Speaker, underneath there is a lot of water before you get to the bottom of the river.

I have compared the dropping of a stone in a river. Not always when you drop that stone, does it land straight down from where you dropped it. It sometimes lands further down river, and I compare that to some of the decisions we have made, we have agreed on some initiatives, and in principle we have agreed to some of the necessary areas of reduction. I found at times, when I get to my community, that what I thought I agreed to and what happened seemed to be almost two separate things. I know, and I have heard it before stated to me, that although we seem to be changing the way things happen, there is still a lot in the system that does not want to change. I would say that we need to continue to work and we need to apply pressure where it is needed.

If there are some dams there that slow the process down, we must take those out. If there is a river flowing too fast that we need to slow down, maybe we need to put up a barrier. I am glad to see that this government has changed its mind over the last year on a number of initiatives that has given the people in

my community a chance to breath a little, to look at the long-term impacts of some of the decisions that we have made.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that, as I came in here a year ago and looked at the first budget of the 13th Assembly, I agreed with many around the table then that we need to deal with our budget issues. We need to balance the budget. That is only proper, and I think we are halfway there. If we can come through this year and do it in a more compassionate and caring way, that the people of the territories agree that this needed to be done, then we will have succeeded if our goals are achieved. I can go back to my community at the end of the day and say, now we can start dealing with what needs to be dealt with. We can look at jobs, we can look at employment. We need to start focusing on that.

Because, Mr. Speaker, when people are unemployed and cannot find work, there is a lot of time they sit around and dwell on what could be or what would have been, and I think it is those times that cause a lot of people to turn towards other things that could be self destructive in a lot of ways. If people are busy at work, they are happier people. I think that is what we need to start doing as a government, is to focus on what can be done, not what cannot be done. I would hope that this government would start looking at the initiatives, and I would hope that this government would look at the initiatives in terms of the communities that have taken the brunt of these reductions.

I think the people of Inuvik realize that, as a regional centre we would take more of the hits. We are bigger. We cannot take health care workers out of our health station that have only two employees. We have done that in our community. I think the boards have made wise decisions in a lot of areas and some I will question, but we all cannot be right all of the time. I will give that benefit of the doubt as well to the Finance Minister. He is not always right, although we have heard around the table and some jokes go around about, what is the difference between Todd and God. I know the difference and I think many of us do. He is a man like many folks. He is human and he is given direction by humans, so he is bound to make mistakes, but I hope that is when we, as an Assembly, get together to pick him up and point him in the right direction.

-- Laughter

MR. ROLAND:

Sometimes I feel like grabbing him by the ankles and then shaking him for the money.

AN HON. MEMBER:

We all do.

MR. ROLAND:

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that, at the end of this day I could steer him in the direction of Inuvik. That if he could find any money, he would come to visit us and show the people that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Replies to budget address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents, Mr. Barnabas.

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ITEM 14: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document, a letter from Mr. Berry Tibbitt, educator of Arctic Bay. It is regarding the lay off of regional librarians, Tabled Document 27-13(4). I was shocked to learn today of the lay off of the regional librarian for the Baffin, Kitikmeot, and Keewatin regions including Yvonne Earle in Iqaluit. I have known and worked with Ms. Earle for the past eight years.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I think all you need to do is make reference to what the tabling of document is about, and it is about the regional librarian. You have said that already. Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 9-13(4): Referral of TD 20-13(4) to Committee of the Whole

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, February 3, 1997, I will move the

following motion. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Tabled Document 20-3(4) entitled Report of the Joint Working Group on the Business Incentive Policy be moved into committee of the whole for discussion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 8, Committee Report 2-13(4), Committee Report 3-13(4) with Mr. Steen in the chair.

ITEM 20: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. I would like to call the committee to order. Item 20, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. We have a number of items here. Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997-98; Committee Report 2-13(4), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the 1997-98 Main Estimates; Committee Report 3-13(4), Standing Committee on Infrastructure Report on the 1997-98 Main Estimates. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Chairman, I would recommend that we consider Bill 8 and Committee Reports 2-13(4) and 3-13(4) concurrently. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Do we agree that we will deal with Bill 8, Committee Reports 2-13(4) and 3-13(4) after the break? Thank you.

-- Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Chairman, I am seeking clarification on the matter regarding general comments and questions. Can we get that clarified? Are we allowed to ask questions during the period of general comments, or will there

be general comments and then questions, and then line-by-line?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Ootes, I believe for general comments and questions specific to the overall department. Questions specific to an activity would have to wait until we reach the activity. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. Does that mean we can make general comments and ask general questions at the same time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

It is my understanding, Mr. Ootes, that you can ask questions for clarification purposes, but if you are asking questions specific to an activity, you will have to wait until we arrive at that activity. General comments. Are there any more general comments from the floor? Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a point of clarification. We are doing general comments on the Executive?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Yes, Mr. Miltenberger. We are on general comments on the Executive. Are there any general comments on the Executive, or can we proceed activity by activity? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Well, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if I can ask a question with regard to some statements. Yesterday, Mr. Chairman, the Premier stated, with regard to the communications plan, that it would be forthcoming in a week or so. But the difficulty I have with that is that we are considering the Executive budget now. If we do not know the financial implications of that particular activity, then it will do me no good to know about it next week. I need to know about that now. I wonder if the Premier could clarify that for me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification for Mr. Ootes, the communication plan has to go through Cabinet, then it will go to committee and then Caucus. It is not addressed in these main estimates. If there is ever any need for dollars for that communication plan, it would have to be addressed as a supp.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Does that answer your question, Mr. Ootes?

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for his answer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

We are back then to general comments. Are there any further general comments? Is it agreed by the Committee that we can then proceed on to activity by activity?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Very well. We are on page 212, Commissioner's office, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, \$226,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like an explanation on operations and maintenance. Was there an extra position hired in the Commissioner's office because there is an increase in salaries and wages from 111 the previous year, to 142 this year? Can the Minister explain that difference?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No there are no additional PYs that go with this office. That must just be a fluctuation in cost. The salaries and benefits are \$136,000, wages and benefits \$6,000, for a total salaries and wages of \$142,000. As well, we have travel and transportation for \$52,000 for a total other O and M of \$83,000. Total operations \$226,000. The total person years in this activity, Mr. Chairman, is two PYs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

My apologies Mr. Morin. I did not ask you if you wish to have witnesses present.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Is it agreed by the committee to invite the witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

You may bring in the witnesses. For the record, Mr. Morin, could you introduce your witnesses?

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my immediate left is Jeff Gilmour, secretary to Cabinet. On Jeff's left is Bruce Cates, acting director, corporate services. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. We are on total operations, \$226,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total expenditures, \$226,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 213, Ministers' office, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, \$3,646,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed. Total expenditures, \$3,646,000. We have Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the Premier, is he anticipating any change in staff in the office, or downsizing at all? People leaving, retiring, in regards to the Ministers' office and staff? Is there anticipation that there will be any downsizing to the number of advisors, or people that work in your office in the coming year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total expenditures, \$3,646,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 214, Cabinet Secretariat, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, \$5,894,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Division Review Secretariat, how many people are in that Secretariat?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nine.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How long have they been in existence with nine people there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have six positions in Yellowknife, that have been there for a little over a year. We have one in Iqaluit that just transferred, Mr. Quirke. We have one in Ottawa on contract. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am inferring from the name Division Review Secretariat, that they are preparing for division. The work that they do, do they work equally on things for the east as well as for a new territory in the west?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Division Review Secretariat is responsible for the planning and implementation of division within the GNWT. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could we get an indication of what percent of their time is spent on preparing for Nunavut?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will get that to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. We are on total operations and maintenance, \$5,894,000. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday I asked the question of the Premier regarding the possibility of regional governments, and what potential powers might be passed on to those regional governments. I wonder if the Premier could clarify that a little more for me. Is this government in the process of negotiating with the federal

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government and the aboriginal groups to set up regional governments?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our regional government will be considered in the self-government negotiations at the request of aboriginal groups. The general view of the GNWT at these early stages is that the role of the regional governments will be to support the integrated and aboriginal governments at the community level. The nature of some programs lend themselves to be more effectively and more efficiently delivered at a regional level rather than at a community level. But the role of regional institutions should be driven by community interests.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs can provide more specifics, but generally speaking, the list includes matters that are internal to the aboriginal group and to its distinct aboriginal culture and essential to its operation as a government or an institution. These include, but may not be limited to, education, aboriginal language, culture, social services, health, family law, some taxation, and a range of municipal-type jurisdictions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

What I heard from that is what regional governments will be responsible for is (not recorded) ... members to those regional governments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again I think it would be premature to pre-judge a process that we are just getting into to. Aboriginal Affairs have been given the dollars to start beefing up their ability to be at the table of these negotiations with the federal government and aboriginal groups. I think it is far too early to speculate what is going to come close to coming out of that process. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Ootes, just for clarification, Mr. Morin suggested that the clarification of this type of issue may better come from Aboriginal Affairs when we reach that in budget, so I wonder if you could limit your questions to the Cabinet Secretariat as it is laid out on page 214?

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will take that and continue with some questions during the review of Aboriginal Affairs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

We are in total operations and maintenance \$5,894,000. Mr. Erasmus?

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is in relation to the Personnel Secretariat. In answer to questioning last year the Premier had indicated that there would be a place where everybody can go to and where they could apply for jobs, rather than going from department to department. I would like to know if there is such a place in Yellowknife and where is it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin?

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not recall saying that last year. That we were going to have a central

agency to apply for jobs through this government. At present time, if a person needs a job in Yellowknife, they will have to walk in the downtown section where the departments are situated in a 10 block radius and apply for jobs, possibly entering a few buildings rather than have one building to enter. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that most of the offices are in a 10 block radius, but for many people who are intimidated enough walking into government offices, having to move to 10 different offices just to find out about jobs and to apply for jobs is a huge undertaking and I will undertake to get the Hansard when I asked that specific question. What I would like to know is who is involved in the interviewing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I am sorry Mr. Erasmus. I did not get the question.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When there are job interviews for jobs within the departments who is involved in those interviews? Is the department of, does the Department of Personnel have anybody involved in those interviews?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is done by the department. The Personnel Department is not involved. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. We are on total operations and maintenance, \$5,894,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When people wish to find out information on jobs where can they find that information? Is there a central place where they can go? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Jobs are advertised in the local paper and the local media. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I think the question, Mr. Morin was, is there a central place where the people applying for jobs can go?

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was this considered, this huge disadvantage and inconvenience, inefficiency, was this taken into consideration when the Department of Personnel was wiped out? When it was downsized to the size it is now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

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HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not completely agree with the Member's preamble to his question, but let me assure you that everything was taken into consideration by this Assembly last year when it passed through this Assembly. Elimination of funding to the Department of Personnel and we changed it into a Personnel Secretariat that was passed by this Legislative Assembly, so I am sure all Members took that into consideration. So did we, in Cabinet. As far as the public in general and people applying for jobs, if they do not have the ability to go from a building to building, or department to department, I do not know how interested they are in working. They should have I guess the want of a job strong enough to go apply to some of the departments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that there was never any debate on this issue and people were not properly informed about how people are going to have to be trudging around in 40 below from place to place. Perhaps it was insinuated by the fact that a lot of money would be taken out of the department. I would like to know, what is the current cost of the Personnel Secretariat?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$1,445,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus, in all fairness to the other Members, if you do not mind, I would like to recognize another Member at this time, and I will get back to you before we move off total operations and maintenance. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I had some concerns with the Personnel Department last year and with some of the hiring policies that have taken place before hand. I understand that in this House, over the last few days some questions have been raised concerning hiring and hiring policies. I understand that the Premier has committed to tabling those. My question on the Personnel is, that now after it is gone, the negative impact of that cut seems to be coming home in the Territories. My question then to the Premier is, as the Premier of the Northwest Territories, has he had much direction or input or comments from his Ministers, from senior staff on the downsizing and closure of the Department of Personnel?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have received some requests to look into individual hiring practices by certain departments and we use Personnel for that. Any appeals are handled by FMBS. In general, what the senior management have said basically through their Ministers to myself and through the senior managers I have talked to, is that now they do have

the ability to manage the hiring in their departments, but along with that ability of management comes the responsibility, and they fully realize that. So every senior manager when he or she is evaluated at the end of the year, will be evaluated as well on their ability to follow the policies of this government and the hiring practices of this government as well. We pay our senior managements a fairly good dollar, but yet before we operated to take all the responsibility away from them. This is giving them the responsibility of hiring and making them accountable for it. We pay them well, they should earn the dollars they are getting paid. Thank you.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Almost a year ago, when we basically eliminated the Department of Personnel, this was one of the points that kept coming up by the Premier was that the managers were paid to be accountable. I would ask the Premier, has he put in place any mechanism that we could look at or any directive or any policy guideline to see in actuality where the effect of this manageability has come into play? Because I understand even in my region, many of the lay offs to date have taken place have been aboriginal people and very few of the new jobs seem to be going to aboriginal people. I see that in my own riding. I am wondering if the Premier has any stats on that. Has he issued any policy directives on that? What is the accountable mechanism that he is talking about? Is that, for example, a regional superintendent does that answer to the deputy minister? The deputy minister answers to the Premier? What is the chain of command here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Picco is correct that the regional directors will answer to the deputy ministers and the deputy minister answers to his Minister, and in the end in their evaluation, they will answer to me. The affirmative action data and statistics are provided in the Public Services annual report published by the FMBS. This includes information such as the number of applicants on a specific job, the interviewing job offers accepted. The Personnel Secretariat regularly

audits departments which includes the audit of the staff and guidelines and compliance to the affirmative action policy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. We are on total operations and maintenance, \$5,894,000. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going back to the Personnel Secretariat. How many people were in the Department of Personnel prior to the closing of that department?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They all were.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What quantity, what number of people were employed by the Department of Personnel?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Were employed, you mean previous to the downsizing? How many people they hired?

MR. OOTES:

No, no.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it was approximately 37 PYs in that department. I cannot be very specific. It is a year or so ago, and if I have a specific

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date, then I could get the information for the Member as well, if he needs it that precise. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Ootes, would you like to clarify your question a little bit?

MR. OOTES:

No, that is fine, Mr. Chairman. That gives me a good idea. How many people are now employed by the Personnel Secretariat?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Eight PYs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

How many were employed as personnel officers previously?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ootes, I did not get the last part of your question.

MR. OOTES:

In the previous Department of Personnel, how many were employed as personnel officers?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back then there were no Personnel officers, they were called, there were only staffing officers. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, this reminds me of the film Phenomenon. I am asking a plain question but if I keep getting hairs split so I have to be very specific obviously. So, how many staffing officers were there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. And maybe you limit your comments to page 214. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Probably 20 plus. That is just a guesstimate. I do not have the numbers in front of me. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Ootes. I have Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is in regards to the whole question with cutbacks that we have made to the Members in the house. Also, other government employees. Have there been reductions in the salaries and wages that have been paid to people in the hierarchy in regards to executive positions. Have they taken a cut also in regards to the downsizing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They took an identical cut. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the reductions based on statistics from other jurisdictions, how do we fit in? We had possibly the highest paid salaries and wages for government employees. Are we still in that bracket? Or are we coming off like you look at other jurisdictions such as Yukon? How do we compare with those other jurisdictions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have a clue about what other jurisdictions are paying their people. Possibly, maybe Mr. Todd would have that

information when he appears. I do not know if he would have it, unless it was publicized or whatever.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

In regards to downsizing of government, Mr. Chairman, could the Premier tell me how many positions have been cut in the Executive?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Krutko, what portion of Cabinet Secretariat responsibilities are you referring to here in your question?

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Are you referring to the downsizing of the Personnel Department? Clarification of your question there.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the Cabinet Secretariat there is a 19 percent decrease in the salaries. Is that because of the layoffs that have occurred in the department, and if so, how many?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman I believe we reduced a total number of PYs by 15. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. For our total operations and maintenance \$5,894,000.00 and I have Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Premier had indicated that jobs are advertised in the newspapers. Is there a policy of how many times the jobs will be advertised?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no policy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman does this means that sometimes jobs are only advertised once?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That could be a possibility.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

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MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there any provision made for people who cannot read?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman I do not know the answer to that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Perhaps Mr. Erasmus you could clarify that as to cannot read, for what purpose.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, if the only place that they advertise is in the newspaper and if they only advertise once, I do not understand how a person who does not read can find out about jobs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding that it does go on some of the radio stations, and it is in aboriginal languages as well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total operations and maintenance \$5,894,000, Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Premier had given some information I just want to correct the accuracy if I took it down properly. Did the Premier tell us that there are eight positions in the Department of Personnel and their total budget is 1.445 million?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Personnel Secretariat, there is a total of eight persons.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total operations and maintenance, Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were two parts to that question. The Premier has answered the first part that there are eight people. Did he also say that the budget for that is 1.445 million?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Premier tell us what these eight persons are doing and, because when I divide eight into \$1.445, I get \$180,000 each. So I believe there is no one getting that type of salary.

So can he tell me what other costs other than payroll are associated with that \$1.445 million?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Permanent salaries are \$560,000, casual wages are 20 for a total of \$580. Travel and transportation \$106, materials and supplies, \$109, purchased services, \$95, contract services \$427, fees and payments, \$67, other expenses, \$41, minor furniture and equipment, \$20,000. Total other O and M, \$865,000 for a total of \$1,445,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total operations and maintenance \$5,894,000.00. I have Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to a question that was asked earlier with respect to the advertising policy, Mr. Erasmus asked if it could be possible for a position only to be advertised once and the Premier answered that in the affirmative. I want to know if that once could possibly be in a southern newspaper in any instance? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was also wondering with the change in the Department of Personnel, I was wondering if the Premier could describe for us briefly, what the appeal process is if you apply for a job with a certain department and are unsatisfied with the way in which your application or your interview whatever is handled or how the job is awarded. What is the appeal process?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a person is not satisfied with the outcome of a staffing position, then they have the right to appeal it to the appeal board and then the department is involved, that person as well as the union. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Could the Premier please clarify, Mr. Chairman, who the appeal board is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One union rep, one department rep and one outside rep. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total operation and maintenance 5,894,000, I have Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Premier mentioned the details of the amount allocated to the Personnel Secretariat and I believe I heard him say that for contract services in the neighbourhood of 400 and some thousand dollars. I wonder if we could get an idea what the contract services are for.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

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HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Audits and compliance tests as staff audits and compliance audits. The secretary will conduct regular audits of department staff and activities while there will be frequent, at first, those annual audits will be sufficient after the first

year. So the majority of that is to be done when you have staffing audits and compliance audits. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Is that a breakdown of the total figure that Mr. Ootes asked. Mr. Ootes, could you repeat your question?

MR. OOTES:

I wanted to know what areas are, we have four hundred and some thousand dollars for contract services and now that the Premier has made a statement on that, I read his reply to be that it is strictly for audit services. Am I correct on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These dollars are not only for compliance and staffing audits, but they are for training practitioners and managers, coordination of lay offs in some cases, which is a fairly huge job, and special reviews if they are called into special reviews and as well as provisions of advice and guidance to departments. In 97-98, that fiscal year there will be an increased focus on the funds that will be required, especially for training and conducting compliance audits and coordinating of lay offs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total operations and maintenance, \$5,894,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Division Review Secretariat, the Premier had indicated there are nine people working there. What is the budget for that Secretariat?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The total budget for the Division Review Secretariat was \$1,028,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of those nine people, how many of them are working primarily on eastern issues?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He has asked that question already and I said I would get him the information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, I had asked the percentage of their time that is used on eastern issues. That is a totally different question, I am asking how many of those nine people work primarily on eastern issues? I am not asking for percentage of their time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And when I do give him the information, some of them will be 100 percent of the time, some 90, some 10, but he will get all that information. Same question, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, I was just wondering, does the Premier have that information now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I had it I would have said it. I have to request that information, that is how come I said that I would get the information. Whatever I have, I will say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Can we get an indication of how long it is going to take this information? I am not prepared to finalize this particular area until I receive that information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As normal Members know, we respond to the requests very thoroughly and quickly, so I will do it as soon as possible. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total operations and maintenance \$5,894,000. I have Mr. Henry and Mr. Ootes. Oh, Mr. Henry has waved off. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Premier tell us what the budget for Intergovernmental Affairs is and the number of employees in that particular area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$438,000, three PYs, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, for the corporate services division, could the Premier tell us what the budget for that is and the number of PYs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$1.75 million, 14 PYs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total operations and maintenance \$5,894,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the secretariat management, what is the budget for that particular area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$1.6 million, sorry Mr. Chairman, \$1,006,000, four PYs. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was there anybody hired in this particular area this year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was one transfer assignment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Morin, could you repeat that, I did not get it.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was one transfer assignment. A policy officer from WCB. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Division Review Secretariat, were there any people hired in that Secretariat?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been one person sent to Iqaluit. They began working with the Secretariat in Iqaluit January 1, 1997, as well as a Ms. Sheila Purdy, who has been on contract with the Secretariat to provide services in Ottawa. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Were those the only two people that were added to this Secretariat in this year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total operations and maintenance \$5,894,000, I have Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the Premier provide us with a general breakdown of the secretariat management with the four PYs and a million dollar budget? Could he tell us what the main areas of expenditure are for this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The secretary management, \$1,006,000 is comprised of \$555,000

for community wellness empowerment and \$451,000 for secretary management in headquarters. Baffin secretary management has a zero budget. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total operations and maintenance \$5,894,000, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Premier could tell me \$555,000 for, I did not get what it was, community empowerment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Clarification, Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, we are going to transfer it right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, \$555,000 goes to MACA and health and social services in 1997. It will be transferred over, I believe. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. We are on Bill 8 - Appropriation Act 1997-98, Executive Office, Cabinet Secretariat. Total operation and maintenance, \$5,894,000. I have Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Intergovernmental Affairs, there are three PYS. Was there any hiring done for that area this year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Division Review Secretariat there were two people hired. Were either of those two people from the south?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was only one person hired, that is Mr. Quirke. He began working for the Secretariat in Iqaluit, January 1, 1997 and a Ms Sheila Purdy has been contracted to the Secretariat to provide services in Ottawa. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The person who has been contracted, is she a northerner?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total operations and maintenance, \$5,894,000. I have Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in regards of the hiring of the different positions and what not. Do they follow the affirmative action policy that is in place in this government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Mr. Chairman, can I ask the Member to repeat his question? I did not have this to my ear.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko, could you repeat your question?

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was, in regards to these positions and the hiring that has taken place, did they follow the Affirmative Action Policy?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Krutko, could you clarify the hiring -- Personnel, Secretariat, what ...

MR. KRUTKO:

The overall question. There has been a lot of discussion here about hiring and firing and who got hired where and what. The whole question I ask in relation to those questions, have they used that Affirmative Action Policy when these hirings took place?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We follow the Affirmative Action Policy and the hiring policies of this government in these two cases. I believe Mr. Quirke is a long time northerner and that was a direct appointment by Cabinet. He was the best person for that position in Iqaluit. He was sent over there to do a job.

As far as Sheila Purdy, she has excellent contacts in the Prime Minister's office, as well as other contacts in Ottawa. The job was in Ottawa. It is on a contract basis. It is not a job and she has so far done, as my understanding from Mr. Todd, an excellent job for this government on a contract basis. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you have any idea in regards to the rough estimate of the wages of these positions are?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 1997-98, a total of 300,000 has been allocated for salaries, travel expenses, office costs and contract services for the GNWT representation in Iqaluit and Ottawa on division matters. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could you give me an idea of how many positions we are talking about, regarding the 300,000?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The position in Iqaluit is a full-time position. The other one is on a contract basis as needed, I believe. You are talking basically two people, but one is not quite full time. It is a contract job.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko. Total operations and maintenance, 5,894,000. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Final question with respect to breakdown of costs, legislation and House planning, the amount of dollars and the number of PYs. I think I have the amount of dollars but the number of PYs is what I need and perhaps a confirmation that the amount of dollars is around \$520,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Legislation and House planning, \$135,000 and one PY.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total operations and maintenance, \$5,894,000. I have Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Premier has told us about the hiring of Mr. Quirke, who I believe is working out of Iqaluit. I would assume he would be working on Nunavut issues. The lady in Ottawa, I would assume would be working on issues for both east and west. Can the Premier advise us, is there a counterpart for Mr. Quirke's job in the west?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only thing that would relate to it is the recent million dollars that Cabinet allocated for land claims issues in the west. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total operations and maintenance. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly believe the million dollars that the Premier is referring to is a proposal. It has not been approved yet, likewise with this. I am just wondering if there is anyone in the west working on issues directly related to the west. Mr. Quirke has been hired. Obviously, he has a schedule or a time table that he is working on. I would assume that we would have the same issues to deal with in the west. Do we not have someone in the west presently working on the same sort of time table as Mr. Quirke would be working on in Iqaluit? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have a specific body working on those issues in the west, one PY for example. We have aboriginal affairs which consist of many PYs in that department. They work on the western issues as well as the eastern issues. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total operations and maintenance, \$5,894,000. I have Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of the 14 PYs in the Corporate Services Division, are any of those people, recent hires in this past year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. I did not hear that answer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

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MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the legislation and House planning, there is one PY for \$135,000. Is that all salary?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could we get a breakdown of those costs then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$100,000 for permanent salaries, \$1,000 for materials and supplies and \$34,000 contract services, for a total of \$135,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$100,000 for permanent salary, which leads me to ... Was that person hired this year or has he been in place for a while?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Been here longer than most of us. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I did not get that Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He has been here longer than most of us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

That is quite a while.

-- Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, I am not sure if this the right area to ask for this information, but perhaps the Premier could indicate if it is or not. At some point in the past, this Legislature gave the Cabinet direction to provide

a list of all, or to make public I guess, all salaries and names of people making \$90,000 and over. Was it \$60,000 and over? Whatever it was, when is that list going to be published and be let for public information?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. I will allow the question to Mr. Morin but it may have been more appropriate to direct this question towards Financial Management Board Secretariat. However, I will allow Mr. Morin if he wishes to respond.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was a motion in the House in formal session by Mr. Picco, seconded by Mr. Ootes to request that information. It was a two-part motion and we have finished the work on the one part for the contract negotiations and all that stuff. Mr. Todd is working on the other part to make public any salaries of anybody, I believe, over \$60,000. We are trying to contact the First Nations, like chiefs, anybody that gets money from this government, hamlets, everyone so that when we do it, we can do it properly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your indulgence in this area. Can I just ask the Premier if he has any indication of how long it is going to take to prepare that information, that has not been finished yet?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I suggest to the Member that possibly he could ask the Minister of Finance when he comes up with his budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. I think that would be appropriate anyway to address the question to the Finance Management Board Secretariat when we reach it in estimates. I have total operations and

maintenance, \$5,894,000. We are on the Executive offices, Cabinet Secretariat.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am still unclear as to the answer on the secretariat management of the \$555,000. I wonder if the Premier could repeat what that is for and where that money is going? What it is to be used for? I am unclear of his answer previously.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin, could you clarify your previous answer.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Between MACA, health and services they have not worked out with us yet how the break up would be of the \$550,000 between those two departments. But one of the key strategies of the government is the support of the priority work towards healthy communities and community-based problem solving is to develop and implement a framework and a process for community development and community wellness action plans. That is basically where this money will be ending up. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total operations and maintenance, 5,894,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure how to do this but I would like to ask if it is possible to leave this page until a later time, once we receive the information that the Premier has indicated that he is going to provide us with.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Erasmus, if you wish to defer this activity at this time you would move that we defer consideration of this activity, and then we would then move on to the

next activity and return at a later time to this particular activity. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion that we defer the activities on page 214 until such time as the Premier provides us with the information that he has said that he will provide us with.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. If the committee agrees, we would have to take a short recess and have your motion in writing and translated. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I withdraw my motion, but I would like to move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. Motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? Mr. Erasmus the motion is defeated. We are on total operations and maintenance, \$5,894 thousand. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move we defer consideration of the activity, Cabinet Secretariat under the Department of the Executive at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Erasmus we will now have to take a short break while we have the motion translated so I will call a recess for five minutes.

-- Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

We have Executive Offices, Cabinet Secretariat, total operations and maintenance \$5,894,000, and I have a motion on the floor. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

I move that this Committee defer further consideration of the activity Cabinet Secretariat under the Department of the Executive at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I am making this motion is because we have been promised some very important information, which is important to a lot of us and I do not believe that we have been sent here to make decisions lightly and without all the information that we should have, and for that reason I have asked to defer this particular, the Cabinet Secretariat, I have asked to defer for further consideration of this particular area and I know I would not want anybody else to make a decision on a particular area that I was fully informed about, but that somebody else was not fully upon. I would grant that wish to someone else so I would hope that people would be willing to vote in favour of this motion until we do receive that information that has been promised. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. I apologize to the committee about the motion. I have been advised the motion is not debatable. Question. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? Motion is defeated. We are on Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 97-98, Executive Offices, Cabinet Secretariat. Total operations and maintenance \$5,894,000. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification for Members of how we proceed in committee of the whole when we bring our budgets forward. We try at all possible times to have as much information as we can humanly think of, for possible questions that Members have to myself as the Minister responsible for this Executive, for example. At some time, during the next few weeks myself as well as other Ministers in this House, may not be able to answer some specific question but I take very seriously the commitment I do make to this committee. When we do commit to follow up with information and we do that in the timely fashion. So just so that Members understand that when we bring our budgets forward, we have as much information as we have with us and sometimes there is a question that we may not be

able to answer, for some information we are going to need that time, extra day or so to get that information so as long as Members understand that, I thought I should clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. We are on Executive Office. Total operations and maintenance \$5,894,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe time has run out.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. You are correct. I will now rise and report progress. I would thank the witnesses for their time.

MR. SPEAKER:

House will come back to order. We are on Item 21, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Steen.

ITEM 21: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 8, and would like to report progress and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of a whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Motion is in order. Seconded by Mr. Ng. Motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Item 22, third reading of Bills. Mr. Clerk, item 23, orders of the day.

ITEM 23: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, the meeting of the Ordinary Members' Caucus at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Orders of the day for Friday, January 31st:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statement

3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address

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10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 8
 - Committee Report 2-13(4)
 - Committee Report 3-13(4)
21. Report of Committee of a Whole
22. Third Reading of Bill
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk this House stands adjourned until Friday, January 31st at 10:00 a.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT