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**HANSARD**

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Jim Antoine, Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, Mr. Barnabas, Honourable Charles Dent, Mr. Enuaraq, Mr. Erasmus, Honourable Samuel Gargan, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Honourable Don Morin, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Ningark, Mr. O'Brien, 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 recognition of the dignity and aspirations of those whom we serve. Amen.

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

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Good morning. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 36-13(4): NWT and Yukon Reach Agreement on Dempster Highway

**HON. JAMES ANTOINE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, communities in the Mackenzie Delta were surprised to hear reports that the Yukon Territorial Government was considering closing the Dempster Highway during the winter months as a cost-saving measure. The Delta communities were quick to respond, pointing out the importance of this highway link for the delivery of their fresh groceries and supplies. They also identified the volume of business that Delta residents and businesses create in the Yukon every year.

I am happy to report to the Members that the Yukon Government does not plan to close the Dempster Highway.

-- Applause

Here in Yellowknife, the Members for the Delta area, community and business representatives and I met on Wednesday, January 29th, 1997, with the Honourable David Keenan, Yukon's Minister of Community and Transportation Services. With the exception of the short periods each fall and spring, when the

Mackenzie and Peel River crossings are out of service, we confirmed that maintenance on the Yukon portion of the highway will continue and traffic will continue to flow.

Yukon's government is facing the same financial problems we are. Like ourselves, budget cuts in the Yukon are a reality. Early in their budget exercise, the Dempster Highway was targeted and options evaluated. I am pleased to say that they contacted us and gave us an opportunity to contribute to their evaluation. This week's meeting shows that they gave our concerns and advice genuine consideration and the impact of the budget cuts on Delta residents has been minimized.

The cuts to the Dempster Highway's budget are best described as operational efficiencies rather than service cuts. The closing of one of the three highway maintenance camps may result in little longer response times to changing road conditions but should not affect the safe operation of the highway. The closing of the highway and redeploying of staff to other activities, during the fall and spring periods when the Mackenzie and Peel River crossings are also closed, will have only a minimal impact on the highway's use. Even this impact can be reduced by scheduling opening and closing dates, so that travel and shipping plans can be made in advance. Other changes, such as increasing dust control and eliminating snow catchments, will actually improve the service on the highway, while achieving long-term savings in operating costs.

While he was here, I expressed my appreciation to Minister Keenan for the cooperative approach his government has taken in this matter. Today, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of honourable Mr. Krutko, Mr. Roland and Mr. Steen, as well as the community and business representatives, who took the time to offer their advice and expertise, both to my office and directly to the Yukon government. By working together, Mr. Speaker, there will be no interruption in the Dempster Highway's vital link to the communities of the Mackenzie Delta.

Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Innovative Revenue Initiatives

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of revenue generation opportunities in the north came up several times recently in the House. It is important, Mr. Speaker, that we develop a strategy to gradually reduce our dependence on transfer of payments from the federal government. We have to explore innovative ways to broaden our economic base by examining new avenues to generate revenues in the north. We must strive to create new economic opportunities and jobs so that we can achieve a sustainable level of growth.

Mr. Speaker, we must be proactive and seriously examine the revenue side of our budget, to help ensure a more hopeful and promising future for our children. Promoting the north, and enhancing economic links with the south, is one viable option. Mr. Krutko has been a visionary in this regard since he combines Mickey Mouse ties with traditional attire. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we can pursue this innovative approach in our desire to creatively explore potential revenue generators in the north. With these colourful Mickey Mouse ties displayed on the television screen, the Disney company has certainly been benefiting from this free form of advertising.

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Mr. Speaker, I wonder if, in the north, we can now share in the wealth, by inviting Disney to come to Yellowknife and develop a show about the north, or even take part in discussing the dress code in the House. This item has been referred to the Rules Committee, of which I am chair, so I believe we will be inviting Disney to appear before that committee. They can also promote the north's fashions in the south, but also our northern environment and lifestyle. Given Mr. Krutko's contacts with Mickey Mouse, perhaps he can link us with Walt Disney and invite them to the north. We can send a copy of Hansard, with our invitation, and also invite the national media to get maximum national coverage, here in Canada and in the US.

Mr. Speaker, we have all the amenities to accommodate events such as this and display our northern hospitality. I am sure this event will benefit many businesses in the north, including airlines, hotels and restaurants. Mr. Speaker, this may seem a mickey mouse way to generate revenue, but so what,

as long as we get the revenue and the publicity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Funding for Alcohol and Drug Training Programs

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is in regards to the whole question about community empowerment and, also, healing for the communities in regards to alcohol and drug programs. The government policy talks about community transfers to create opportunities in communities and more control and authority over programs for communities to empower themselves. Without trained, qualified individuals within those positions to take on those responsibilities, the communities will be lacking a very critical resource, which is the human resource, in those particular fields.

One of the fields that seems to have taken the most impact lately is the whole area of alcohol and drug programming, the Tl'ondih Healing Society, Delta House. Now, in relation to training those individuals to take on the role of helping the communities heal, we have to have adequate resources, and the people in place with the qualifications, who have received diplomas and have gone away for that training. Yet, we hear today that the Delta Cultural Institute, in relation to the training program that they have conducted into the alcohol and drug counselling program, is being cut. Yet, Mr. Speaker, the communities that I represent, have sent individuals to Hay River to take on this responsibility and assist the community in the area of healing. So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know, what is it? Are we empowering the communities by giving the authority, or are we impairing the communities by not having trained resourceful people in those positions to take on those responsibilities?

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister of Social Services a question on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement On Impact of Budget Reductions on Language Services

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past week we have discussed at some length the new budget. We have spent the first year and a half of our mandate as an Assembly trying to deal with the legacy of debt that we inherited. We have also spent time gearing up for division. With this in mind, it is unclear how replacing regional librarians in the east with support services from the west is either cost effective or logistically sound. Mr. Speaker, in less than 800 days two new territories will be formed. Is it sensible for this government to downsize, in this case, library services before division because on April 1, 1999, Nunavut will not have the regional librarian position because the whole basis of the operation will be in far off Hay River. What will we do then, Mr. Speaker? Who will provide those library and languages services? Language is an issue here, Mr. Speaker, because the regional librarian coordinates and facilitates the collection of Inuktitut materials. Following on this, Mr. Speaker, the proposed closure of the language bureau is another attack by this government on language and education. How can we justify closing the language bureau when the monetarial savings will be minimal? No, Mr. Speaker, we need this government involved with language issues. We need a presence with Dogrib, Gwich'in, North and South Slavey, Cree, Inuktitut and other aboriginal languages. It is sad, Mr. Speaker, sad that some people see the language bureaus as only a den of interpreters and translators. The language bureau is more than this, and I will be asking questions on this area, later today. Mr. Speaker, a reputation for a 1,000 years can depend on the conduct of a single moment. Let the Members of the 13th Assembly remember this, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Stanton Hospital Patient Representative

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today, is in regards the service that is available through Stanton

Hospital. Mr. Speaker, the other day I made a statement concerning eye glasses. My intent, Mr. Speaker, was to try to fix the problem, wherever it may be, whether it is through the prescriptions, the dispensing of the prescriptions, or if it happens to be the people who make the glasses down south, or whatever. I have tried different means of getting some action prior to that, but there was one avenue that I was not aware of, and I would like to make the public aware of that today.

When people deal with health care professionals and facilities, it can be an intimidating thing, particularly for people who do not work in offices. They may be unhappy with how they were treated, or they do not understand why some things were done. Stanton Hospital recognizes this, and they recognize that patients and families may have questions, but do not know where to find the answers or that they may have a complaint to register. To help the general public, Stanton has appointed a patient representative back around 1993 or so, and patients or their families who have questions or concerns can go to this representative. They can raise questions about

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the hospital itself, its various clinics, or its staff. The patient representative tries to help in a way that is easy for the patient or the family. The current representative is Heather Chang, and she can be contacted in person at the hospital or else you can call a toll free number which is 1-800-661-0896, or you can reach her by letter at Stanton Hospital. She will do what she can to try to help you. Each and every concern is followed up, and additionally a summary of concerns is given to the board and a quality management committee regularly. This is how the hospital has responded to try to listen and to improve its service. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, the hospital is trying to respond to concerns in this manner. One of the things that I would like to suggest is perhaps they could advertise this a little bit better, so that more

people know about the representative and this 1-800 line and the rest of that. Perhaps they could up a sign prominently displayed at the hospital, at the eye clinic, at the health clinic and the various offices that they have, so people will know this. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Stanton Hospital's efforts to be responsive to the needs of their patients, and if people have a concern or questions to ask, I urge them to let Stanton Hospital know through this agency, because if they do not know there is a problem, they cannot fix it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Importance of the Mining Sector

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have often spoken on the importance of mining in the Northwest Territories, and the need for us to diversify our northern economy, and I know that Mr. Henry spoke on this a little earlier, and he has a good idea, but I think what we certainly have to concentrate on is to reduce our dependency on federal government financing. On Wednesday of this week, I attended a future focus meeting sponsored by the City of Yellowknife. They have held these meetings for the past year on various subjects such as seniors' education. This week's meeting was on mining. Mining is a \$1 billion industry here in the Northwest Territories, and it employs some 1,700 people, and that makes it the largest private sector employer, and actually it is just behind the territorial government. They contribute to the creation of a lot of spinoff jobs, such as the chartered airline industry, the main airline industries, supply companies, and on and on it goes. So when we speak about 1,700 jobs, there is likely 1,700 other jobs in the Territories that are dependent upon mining.

But all is not good news on the mining front. The price of gold is dropping, and it will likely stay there for some time. What that means is that it puts some of the mines in a precarious position. Some of the mines are very old and nearing the end of their life. Polaris is another mine that might well reach the end of its life in 2001. We need to encourage mining here in the Northwest Territories and exploration, but what we need to do, and we certainly have to keep that in mind here as legislators, is that we need reform, regulatory reform.

Mining companies need a harmonization of regulations. They need a single efficient system. Land claims need to be settled quickly and fairly, so that mining groups can continue and know who to approach with respect to who owns the land. A database needs to be made accessible for geoscience information. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Infrastructure needs to be built. We need roads, there are resources, a program such as existed years before, and we need to bring that to the attention of the federal government. They, after all, are the major beneficiaries of the diamond mine that is coming in through the royalty factor, so we need to pressure the federal government. We need a trained work force, and mining companies need access to land. Mining can kick start our northern economy, Mr. Speaker, and that leads to job creation, and that leads to improvement in our ill social conditions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Community Libraries

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make some brief comments today about the concern I have about community libraries across the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, community libraries are very important institutions at the community level. The community library in Fort Smith is a centre place for literacy and it also, in a community of 2,500 people has over 10,000 users a year. I am very concerned Mr. Speaker, because I have heard that the government has a review under way which would show a cut to existing budgets to community libraries

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the existing community libraries have not had their funding raised in 10 years. The community in Fort Smith cost shares the library with the territorial government. In fact this

is the case, that this study will be recommending that there will be cuts to existing libraries, it is something that I will be hard pressed to support. The intent of the government may be laudable to try to spread community libraries around, but it makes no sense to me, Mr. Speaker, to cut already underfunded institutions to create even more underfunded and under-resourced institutions. So, I would encourage the government, if they are going to pursue this initiative to in fact make it a positive initiative where they try to identify funds to build community libraries, not to cripple the existing ones to try to build more inadequate community library services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

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**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

Return to Question 90-13(4): Housing Shortages in Clyde River

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Enuaraq on January 23, regarding housing shortages in Clyde River. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the question raised by Mr. Enuaraq about the Housing Corporation's policy on so called matchbox houses. There are approximately 300 homes left that were built under the northern (inaudible) program of the federal government back in the 1960s and early 1970s. Many of these homes have been renovated to more modern standards. There are only a dozen of the old matchbox houses left. Clyde River is the only community in the NWT which still uses the original matchboxes for rental units. The Housing Corporation, as a result of the elimination of federal funds for new public housing, has had to amend its policy about replacing all northern rentals. A recent letter to all LHO's from the Housing Corporation's president outlined the new plans. All of the northern renters are being evaluated with particular emphasis on those home which still lack basic facilities like hot and cold running water. The Housing Corporation will renovate or replace all northern rentals in poor condition. The matchbox houses will be replaced with new homes in 1997/98 and 1998/99. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is professional development day in Hay River at Diamond Jenness Secondary School, so I am pleased to have my son, Jeffery Groenewegen and two of his friends, Michael McBryan, and Jeremy Studney are visiting today from Hay River.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Pat Thomas with the NWTTA.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6: oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 188-13(4): Housing Shortages in Clyde River

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question first to the Minister of Housing, to Goo Arlooktoo. As it states here, what he just read regarding housing shortages in Clyde River and also 1998 and 1999. According to my way of understanding what the Minister said. Did he state that the matchboxes that are still left over, there are still seven, and also, are they going to be replaced? Is that his statement? (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 188-13(4): Housing Shortages in Clyde River

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

(Translation) You understood my question. Those old houses in Clyde River, the so called matchboxes, they are in existence still because there is a great deal of shortage in housing in Clyde River. There are no more matchboxes in any other communities. Also, there is going to be a new house being built up to 1999, a smaller house. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 189-13(4): Funding for Alcohol and Drug Training Programs

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Social Services, Mr. Kelvin Ng. In relation to my opening statement, the whole question about alcohol and drug counsellors and training for those counsellors in the communities, so that once we do take on more authority in relation to the community transfer initiatives by his department, which he is calling the community wellness, and also in regards to the healing process that a lot of our communities are presently in.

In the case of Fort McPherson, Mr. Speaker, several individuals who were associated with Tl'oondih Healing Society have taken the challenge of going to Hay River in regards to the Dene Cultural Institute to program for alcohol and drug counselling diploma program have made the adjustment to take on that authority with eventually coming home and working along with the Tl'oondih Healing Society to assist the community in the healing process it is presently going through. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is: do they have adequate resources for training dollars so when the communities do take on these responsibilities, they will have resources to have people trained and able to take these things on in a fashion that will meet the success of that program?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return to Question 189-13(4): Funding for Alcohol and Drug Training Programs

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we commend them on their efforts, all alcohol and drug community workers in trying to upgrade their skills to provide services to all our constituents throughout the territories. We will be giving communities the flexibility by having the dollars at the community level or at the regional level if it is chosen to be held there to allow them to set their own priorities, and if training is one of those priorities outside of current funding, that would be available through the college, the Aurora and the Nunavut Arctic college program system that we have in place, then by all means if that is their priority they can, to complement those programs that the colleges offer then they would have the ability to do that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 189-13(4): Funding for Alcohol and Drug Training Programs

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the whole question about the training dollars, will those dollars come in a way of block funding or will they be associated with the transfer itself and how much will the transfer for these training opportunities that will come along, be so that people can be trained to eventually take over those programs in the communities.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 189-13(4): Funding for Alcohol and Drug Training Programs

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have the specifics on the dollar amounts now. As I indicated, there will be some movement of dollars in the allocation dollars outside of Yellowknife to the regional level. It may be determined at that time that

further dollars may be pushed out to the community levels, so that local municipal councils, band councils, local alcohol and drug organizations will have significantly more input into where they would see those dollars best being utilized, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 189-13(4): Funding for Alcohol and Drug Training Programs

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the whole question about training dollars to the communities, could you give me the exact breakdown of those dollars for my constituency in regards to how much they are going to be getting with these transfers so I can have an idea of what we are talking about here?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 189-13(4): Funding for Alcohol and Drug Training Programs

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would say that the actual specific dollars identified for training would be minimal. As it stands now in the whole scheme of the alcohol and drug funding provided through the Department of Health and Social Services, as you know, the focus has been on some of the treatment and the communities base programs. That is historically where this department has channelled their financial expenditures in that area, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 189-13(4): Funding for Alcohol and Drug Training Programs

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just in regards to the whole question about having the minimum training dollars

allocated to communities to take on these responsibilities. Do you not think the government is also renegeing on the responsibility to ensure that we have adequate people in the communities to take on these transfers so they can deliver these programs to its fullest? Could the Minister give me a listing of exactly the amount of dollars that will be allocated with these transfers so that communities could be made aware of exactly the amounts of money they will be getting for these transfers, so when they do take them on, they are aware of all the aspects of these transfers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 189-13(4): Funding for Alcohol and Drug Training Programs

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I fully support what the Member is alluding to and the fact that the increased training of alcohol and drug workers is beneficial to all of us. We recognize that now. I am not trying to minimize the question or the answer to the honourable Member. The fact is that the funding for training alcohol and drug workers specifically is not entirely held by the Department of Health and Social Services. The fact that I was trying to get to was that the Arctic college programs, both east and west, provide alcohol and drug training funds and they have students financial assistance programs that allow our constituents and the workers to access program dollars to upgrade their skills, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 190-13(4): Community Libraries

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture, and Employment. Could the Minister indicate whether in fact there is a review taking place of community libraries? Please.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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



Return To Question 190-13(4): Community Libraries

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like all of the programs offered by the department, there are generally reviews undertaken, and libraries are certainly going to be looked at in the course of the next little while. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 190-13(4): Community Libraries

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate whether in fact a draft has been developed that does indicate that the plan is to cut discontinued library funding to try to parcel it out in a more equitable fashion, but not put any more new funding in? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

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Further Return To Question 190-13(4): Community Libraries

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that there has been a draft that has been circulated for public comment. It certainly does not represent a position taken by the department. We are at this point in time, looking for comment only and there have been no decisions made as to how to proceed with this project from here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 190-13(4): Community Libraries

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicated that they have gone to the public for consultation. Could the Minister indicate the type of public consultation? Have library boards, for instance, been consulted at that level? My understanding was this was still a fairly exclusive piece of documentation.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 190-13(4): Community Libraries

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe that the process has become a public process yet. I think what has happened is that there have been some ideas kicked around. The department is looking for some guidance in terms of what would make sense to some people out there and I expect that the consultative process will broaden after there has been some refining of the initial kick at the can, if you will. Thanks.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 190-13(4): Community Libraries

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate whether he would be also referring the document, when it is ready, back to the appropriate standing committee, so that we as well could have input into this territorial wide review? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 190-13(4): Community Libraries

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been the policy of this government to ensure that the Committees of this House are brought into the picture and we seek their guidance when talking about changes in policy. There will be no exception in this case, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 191-13(4): Principals' Employment Contracts

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education, Culture, and Employment, the Honourable Charles Dent. The letter dated January 8, 1997, addressed to the District Education Authorities and Divisional Education Councils, the Minister outlined the terms under the new Education Act regarding principals who are already hired on indeterminate status. Section 63(1) of the Act requires principals to be hired on terms not exceeding five years. In this letter the Minister declared that all principals hired in indeterminate positions are notified that their status will end as of June 30, 1997, and they will then be deemed to be hired on a five year term, running from July 1, 1997, to June 30, 2002. My question for the Minister is: why are principals guaranteed positions for six years from the time the Act came into force?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 191-13(4): Principals' Employment Contracts

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, jobs are not guaranteed for anybody. What has happened is that there has been a change in the type of employment. Until now, principals have been employed in indeterminate positions, in other words there was no term involved. The new Act, which came into effect on July 1, 1996, states that principals could no longer be hired on an indeterminate status, but for five year terms. Until the Act was proclaimed on July 1, the principals were still in indeterminate positions. With the new Act coming into force on July 1, we then had to give principals notice. According to the collective agreement, they are required to receive 60 days notice regarding any change in the terms of their employment. Since the Act was not in force 60 days prior to July 1, 1996, that notice could not be given in advance, it could only be given subsequent to the Act coming into force. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 191-13(4): Principals' Employment Contracts

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, now if I understand the Minister correctly, it would seem that this policy will go on after 1997 and of course if it goes on after 1997 the implication here is it goes on after April 1, 1999, to the year 2002. So can the Minister confirm to me that this government, then, in this new Act, is guaranteeing employment to the principals after the year 1999, the year 2000, the year 2001 and 2002, as outlined in his previous statement. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 191-13(4): Principals' Employment Contracts

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, that is not a correct interpretation. The correct interpretation is that the maximum term of employment for a principal is five years, after which that term can be renewed by the Divisional

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Education Council, if they should so choose. There are always methods to remove an employee who is not doing a good job. Do not think that this is a means of guaranteeing employment. It is just notification to principals that the terms of their employment have changed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question Principals' Employment Contracts

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister explain to me then how this policy has been directed to the local education authorities as keeping with the community empowerment initiative by setting

time limits, and so on, and the appointment of these very important people in smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 191-13(4): Principals' Employment Contracts

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would concur with the Member's comment that these are very important people in every community. I think that principals, by and large, across the Northwest Territories, are doing exceptional jobs in difficult circumstances. The previous Legislature saw a need to change the legislation so a principal's position was no longer indeterminate but was limited to a maximum of five years. Because that is set in legislation, we had no choice but to enforce it. The letter that has gone out is a clear response to legislation and is not tied to the community empowerment initiative. However, I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that the Education Act is probably one of the best examples that we have of community empowerment, already in place, in the Northwest Territories. Local communities, through this Act, can have, in consultation with Divisional Education Councils, significant powers in the administration and running of the schools in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 192-13(4): Contracting Procedures

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Public Works and Services. Yesterday, I asked the Minister about the various methods by which the government awards contracts and the Minister made reference to requests for proposals. I wonder if the Minister could tell me, is that the same as a construction management proposal?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 192-13(4): Contracting Procedures

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker. No, not necessarily. A request for proposals, as I explained yesterday, is when the government has a specific job that it wants done but does not have all the details on how it should be done. What we do is, we send a call letter out asking for proposals which is different from a public tender contract, where we know exactly what needs to be done. A request for proposals could be on construction management proposal.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 192-13(4): Contracting Procedures

**MR. OOTES:**

Yes. Does the Minister mean that a request for proposals is made up of various methods, one of which is construction management proposal?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 192-13(4): Contracting Procedures

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A request for proposals could be on absolutely anything. We have had requests for proposals this past year on field contracting, on privatization of systems and computers, some housing projects. So, a request for proposals is just that. We are asking companies to submit plans and ideas, costing et cetera, on how they would do a specific job for the government to review.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 192-13(4): Contracting Procedures

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that does clarify the request for proposal. I wonder if the Minister could tell me what the construction management proposal is?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 192-13(4): Contracting Procedures

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, there are specific cases where the government does have some resources, some equipment, that it has for use on a specific project but requires the use of expertise to manage them. That is what it covers.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 192-13(4): Contracting Procedures

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is that the same as site supervisor services?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 192-13(4): Contracting Procedures

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I really do not know. There are various construction projects, some of them large, that do have site superintendents or site managers and they could be called various things and called site superintendents.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 193-13(4): Dempster Highway Closures

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is directed towards the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Jim Antoine. Mr. Speaker, I took part in the meeting with the Minister of Transportation, and I would like to thank him for allowing our input as ordinary MLAs and the Council members that did come down. I would like to know, he mentioned in his statement about working on dates for closure between when the ferries are in and out. Can the Minister inform me when those dates will be discussed or what time will they come up to firm up these dates? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Transportation. Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 193-13(4): Dempster Highway Closures

**HON. JAMES ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the information that the Honourable David Keenan, Minister of Transportation for Yukon, passed on to us in regards to the cost reduction exercises relating to the Dempster Highway, involves closures and seasonal staff reductions on the highway system. According to their proposal, during the spring break-up and during the fall freeze-up, there is about a period of maybe four weeks, four weeks in the spring and four weeks in the fall. As we all know, living in the north, we do not know exactly when the ice is going to break up in the spring and we do not know exactly when it is going to freeze up as well in the fall. So, trying to look at the times over the years, around what time these natural incidents happen, with that in mind, and working along with us, we will try to develop a more firm time with the Yukon Government. At this point in time, we do not have the exact time.

I think what the honourable Minister from the Yukon was trying to do, was pass on information to us that this is their intention of doing it. They are still not into their budget yet. I think they are still developing their budget. I think, in time, we will have firmer dates. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 193-13(4): Dempster Highway Closures

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure many people in Inuvik, and Inuvik region, will be quite happy to hear that the closures are not going to be as extreme as initially discussed. I would like to encourage the Minister to keep the community, and the region, informed as to any changes that are coming up and when dates are set. I would like to know if the Minister would continue working with us as a community of Inuvik, and region of Inuvik, on the Dempster Highway. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 193-13(4): Dempster Highway Closures

**HON. JAMES ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the example where, a couple of days ago, when the Honourable Minister Keenan came down and the three MLAs from the Delta were invited, along with community leaders, should be an indication of the type of working together that I would like to see continue on as we deal with the Dempster situation. We will be keeping you very well informed as we move along. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 194-13(4): Student Summer Employment

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd. It is concerning student summer employment. It is about the time of the year that we have to start thinking about employing as many students as we can, so that we can be prepared, by the time they get out of school. I know that, last year, we did not have as many job openings as we had wanted to. I know that the Finance Minister had indicated that he was going to try to improve the situation this year, so, I was wondering if the Finance Minister has, in fact, done anything so that we can get more students employed this year than last year.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 194-13(4): Student Summer Employment

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and a good question by my honourable colleague. Just a little history, if I may, for clarity's sake. If you remember when we were negotiating last year with the UNW, we indicated to them that we thought we could try to find a wage rate for students that was different from the normal civil servant, so that we could employ more students, not less. Unfortunately, for one reason or another, we could not get an agreement. We are, as I have said in the House before, as Mr. Dent has said, looking at an affirmative action policy and also looking at a northern job strategy. As part of that overall northern job strategy, we are also looking at, specifically, a program for students this summer. We are going to be, hopefully, bringing forward to the committee, the Government Ops Committee, both these papers to seek their input and direction on and get this thing under way, so that we can be up and running for the summer. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 194-13(4): Student Summer Employment

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the strategy result in more jobs being available for students than there was last year?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 194-13(4): Student Summer Employment

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**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is certainly our intention to do that. We hope to be able to get the resources from within and as I said, hopefully next week, we are going to have both these reports ready. We are going to be presenting to the Government Operations Committee, have a healthy dialogue at committee to

try to get some consensus as to where we move forward and, I am optimistic and confident, that this summer we will be able to bring more students to the work force than we have in the past, based upon the cooperation and support we get from the Ordinary Members with respect to our overall job strategy and the affirmative action policy. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 194-13(4): Student Summer Employment

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the problems that many students have from the small communities, is that there is no work in the communities. Often they have to come to Yellowknife, Hay River or Rankin Inlet, to a larger centre to work and they may not necessarily want to do that. Is it possible to provide, perhaps, some funding to the communities or some other means so that there are more jobs available in the communities, as well for summer students. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 194-13(4): Student Summer Employment

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our overall objective is to accomplish exactly that. It is going to take the energetic cooperation of the government committees and the Ministers, who are leading this, both myself and Mr. Dent. As I said to my colleague in answer to his last question, I am confident, if we move quickly and enthusiastically, we can get some changes into the system for implementation this summer.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 194-13(4): Student Summer Employment

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Premier indicated there was no central agency for hiring people in Yellowknife. Is it possible to have a central agency for the students, so that we can be more properly coordinated in our efforts to make sure that they get their jobs?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 194-13(4): Student Summer Employment

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

The details, as I say, have not really been worked out in terms of where we are going with this. We need to sit down with the committees. Plus Cabinet will ultimately have to approve some of the initiatives that we are considering right now. I think it would be fair to say that the general thrust, at least at this early stage, is for more of these things to be driven from the communities, rather than from the centre. So, it is a little early, at this time, to determine exactly what the deliberating stage will be but there will be adequate opportunity for the committee to give us advice and direction on that, as we proceed through this exercise, hopefully in March and April. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 195-13(4): Funding for Self-Government Negotiations

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we heard in the House from Mr. Todd that Mr. Antoine was submitting a supplementary appropriation request for \$1 million for self-government talks. I would like to know, from the Minister, why he feels it was not necessary that this pass through the Infrastructure Committee? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 195-13(4): Funding for Self-Government Negotiations

**HON. JAMES ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member asked a question here in regards to additional funds that are required to carry on the very important work in with Aboriginal Affairs, and as other Members know from the Infrastructure Committee that every time I appear before them I made a point that we are lacking funds and we have a lot of work to do to accomplish the kind of directions that is put forward here for us to accomplish and as a result of that we move forward. I thought the understanding there was that the different Members that there is a real need to secure additional fundings to carry on the work that is directly for this ministry to do. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 195-13(4): Funding for Self-Government Negotiations

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are sitting in the House for at least another month, I wonder why the Minister felt it was so urgent to have this passed through supplementary without going through the committee, since we are here anyway. It does not seem to be that much of a big issue to call a meeting of the Infrastructure Committee, and the Committee would then have responded. Could the Minister indicate what was the urgency?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 195-13(4): Funding for Self-Government Negotiations

**HON. JAMES ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a financial matter and as a government we like to defer these type of financial matters to the Minister of Finance to answer this question. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Todd, would you like to respond?

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well I did already respond to another question asked by Mr. Picco as to the dollars and the process for it. The reality is that self-government negotiations are under way. We believe, the Cabinet and the FMB and to some extent many Members in this House believe there is an urgent need for additional resources to move this thing forward. A submission came in through the normal process through FMB, which was approved and that will be subject to approval of this House, either in this session. It is not for expenditures until the new fiscal year and we follow due process. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 195-13(4): Funding for Self-Government Negotiations

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday when the question was put to the Minister of Finance, it was suggested that it be redirected to Mr. Antoine because it was put forward in the request to the Finance Minister, so, the first question is: why did the request go to the Minister of Finance before the need was discussed with the appropriate committee? I understand, Mr. Speaker, that the process is going to the envelope committee, from there to the operational Committee for Government Ops, and then from there back to the Minister. Therefore, what is the point of the committees? I guess what my question is, what is the point of the committee process if we are going to go from one Minister's department, speak to the Finance Department and the committees do not have any option to discuss the thing. So the question really comes back, what was the need for the request?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. There is a bit of a confusion here too and I am not too clear on which way to direct my question. Mainly because there are two Ministers involved and it is difficult to determine which has the responsibilities, but can I ask Mr. Todd, the Minister of Finance, if he can clarify the situation. I believe there were two questions asked. One with regard to yesterday and the direction to question two. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 195-13(4): Funding for Self-Government Negotiations

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker. I think it would be fair to say if matters of a fiscal nature would be referred to myself as the Finance Minister, matters of a self-government nature as it relates to the talks or process or whatever, would be addressed to Mr. Antoine. Maybe I just need to explain the process. We have followed the process. Budget was prepared. There was a request came in after the budget was prepared for an FMB submission to support the self-government negotiations that are under way that the Minister got forward and got FMB approval for. Period. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 195-13(4): Funding for Self-Government Negotiations

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are back now to the first question. Why did Mr. Antoine feel it was necessary to put forward this request, without that request being tracked through the committees straight to the finance board, Financial Management Board? What was the reason for the million dollar request? I do not understand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

There is a confusion here, and perhaps we need to get, again, as long as there is that confusion, we still have to go by one question and three supplementaries rule till we clarify the confusion. I would like to ask the Premier if perhaps he might help the Members to clarify the confusion here. Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 195-13(4): Funding for Self-Government Negotiations

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just on process, when a department feels it does need dollars or it has a request into the Financial Management Board this for process alone, Mr. Speaker, on paper A, for example, it will come to Cabinet for approval, then it goes to FMB for approval, then, once Cabinet and FMB approve that, then it goes to committee and then ends up in this House on a financial matter, but that is the

process. It would be very unrealistic to take money requests to committees prior to it going through the proper process. So, that is just on process alone. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 196-13(4): Confirmation of Amalgamation

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, we recently passed a motion to stop the amalgamation of Transportation, Housing, Public Works. I would like a confirmation from the Minister as myself and some of the Members are hearing things that are contrary to the motion that was passed. Will the Minister confirm to this House that this amalgamation is not proceeding now and/or in the future. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 196-13(4): Confirmation of Amalgamation

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, the amalgamation proposal as we presented it, is not going ahead and I made an announcement to that effect last week, Friday. We are, however, obligated in my mind to keep working on finding efficiencies, cost-saving measures in the department that we run. The amalgamation is not going ahead as we had proposed. There are no other departmental amalgamations planned, but, within the departments we will keep working on finding efficiencies and cost savings.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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Supplementary To Question 196-13(4): Confirmation of Amalgamation

**MR. O'BRIEN:**



Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell this House exactly what revisions, and I use that word, that the Minister is looking at regarding these departments? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Again, I would like to remind the Members, the question is a bit hypothetical. Perhaps, can I ask the Member if he could rephrase his question?

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think my question is fairly straightforward. Mr. Speaker, my question, Mr. Speaker, is, what changes, or what revisions, is the Minister presently looking at regarding these departments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 196-13(4): Confirmation of Amalgamation

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, one of the things with the original amalgamation proposal that we said we would do, is reduce the management level and the bureaucracy in the administration by combining them together to one. Because the amalgamation proposal was rejected by original MLAs, that part of the penny savings is lost. The fact is that pretty much all of the departments have been stripped of any fat and inefficiencies that we traditionally had, but it is still important and it is still our obligation to keep looking at the duplications, inefficiencies, et cetera. That is what we are going to keep doing, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Again, just to remind the Members to be a bit clearer when you direct your questions. What I heard was vision, not revision. That is why I made the ruling. Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 196-13(4): Confirmation of Amalgamation

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister explain to the House what this new proposal is that his department is working on?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 196-13(4): Confirmation of Amalgamation

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, there is no new proposal that we are currently working on.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 197-13(4): Status of Liquor Law Review

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question at this time will be directed to the Minister responsible for the liquor legislation, the Minister of Justice, I believe. Mr. Speaker, tabled in this House back in November of 1994 was a liquor law review. I would like to know from the Minister responsible for this area, what has been done with this document? And what with the review? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. The responsibility would be to the Liquor Licensing Board which is Mr. Todd. I will redirect for the Member. Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 197-13(4): Status of Liquor Law Review

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

What I would like, Mr. Speaker, is some clarity from my honourable colleague. Is he referring to the legislative changes that the former government and this government have been working on? If he could just clarify that for me, thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Roland.

Question 197-13(4): Status of Liquor Law Review

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am referring to the legislative proposal that were like that. I am just wondering what has been done with this document. As I have said in this House before, we have been studied to death, and is this one of those studies that been done and shelved? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 197-13(4): Status of Liquor Law Review

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Not under my leadership, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if my memory serves me correct, Mr. Alan Downe who was a well-known researcher in this House, and did a considerable amount of work on behalf of the former Minister, and the ministry in consultations with the communities as to the changes that they felt, the communities at large felt, were necessary in the liquor legislation, in the Liquor Act. My understanding is that Mr. Downe was working on, and probably still is working on some changes that would then go forward to committee and go through the normal process. Now as to the status of that right now, I do not have that answer this morning, but I do recognize the importance of it. As a matter of fact, another Member mentioned it to me this morning. I will speak to the department and find out what the status is of the development of the new legislation and the changes that were being recommended based upon discussions that took place within the overall territorial constituency. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 198-13(4): Funding for Self-Government Negotiations

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Todd in his budget address talked about a million dollars being contributed, and I think Mr. Steen has talked about it earlier today. This million dollars, Mr. Speaker, I would like the Minister to tell me what this money is for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 198-13(4): Funding for Self-Government Negotiations

**HON. JAMES ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the million dollars that is going to be used by the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is to participate in the different claims talks that are going on. We have in the Beaufort Delta, the Gwich'in, Inuvialuit are currently beginning the negotiations on self-government. At the present time, we just have one person at the table from Aboriginal Affairs participating, and this is the beginning of these negotiations, and we need more resources at the table. We need somebody from Justice. We need somebody from FMBS, and we also need people from MACA so that we keep a good representation at the table, so that the feds and the Beaufort Delta negotiators have a good counterpart to protect the interests of this government.

At the same time, we have Dogrib negotiations on lands claims and self-government starting up. There again, on the self-government side, we have one person at the table, and the South Slave Metis will be starting their negotiations. Again we have one person at the table, at the current time. With talks beginning with Treaty 8, with the treaty lands entitlement discussion with the Salt River and Fort Smith Dene, we have one person at the table. With the Treaty 8 talks beginning here with the Yellowknives, Fort Res and as well Lutselk'e, we just have one person at the table, and with the possibility of talks starting in the future with other regions like Deh Cho. Now the Sahtu region is interested in talking about self-government. If all these tables start with the resources that we have today, we will be stretching pretty far. We have only three negotiators, and if all these different talks are starting today then we will be in a heck of a lot of trouble here because we do not have the resources, and the million dollars is for the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, and the Department of Justice, FMBS and MACA so that we have people at the table representing the interests of the government during the negotiations. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 199-13(4): Post Lay-Off Training Assistance

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. First of all, we have laid off a lot of people. This government has laid off a lot of people in Yellowknife and, of course, other areas, but we do know as well that the BHP mines are going to be starting up around here, and there may be other mines starting up. Many of the people in the north are not adequately educated and trained to take advantage of those jobs, even though we have impact benefit agreements between ourselves and BHP for instance, and between various communities and BHP. I would like to know first of all, what is being done for the many people from the GNWT that are being laid off? What is being done to assist those types of people to getting jobs into the mining industry such as BHP. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 199-13(4): Post Lay-Off Training Assistance

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member's question may relate more directly to a different Minister if he is talking about lay offs, or provisions of lay offs for employees. I believe that the provisions in our Employee Work Force Adjustment Program allow for employment counselling and assistance in finding other employment. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment does not have any program specifically aimed at people who have been laid off. Our programs are available for all residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 199-13(4): Post Lay-Off Training Assistance

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to ask the proper Minister at a later time on that area. The Minister of Education had indicated that the training that his

department provides is for people in general. I would like to know what is being done in the area of mining training? What has been proposed for the coming year? Thank you.

Further Return To Question 199-13(4): Post Lay-Off Training Assistance

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department and the colleges are continuing to support the Community Mobilization Group in their training efforts. As well, the colleges will be providing community based training for basic employment at mines as for example equipment operators. There will also be some training provided for people who wish to move into the area of technology and advanced technology. Elementary training will be undertaken to encourage people to follow up by attending NAIT, SAIT or other technical colleges. We have a number of initiatives under way through the colleges, Mr. Speaker; and as well I am expecting to receive some advice from the Mine Training Committee that was set up last spring to advise where and what specific types of training should be offered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 199-13(4): Post Lay-Off Training Assistance

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister be kind enough to give us an update on the activities and perhaps the recommendations or whatever, that has come from this mine training committee.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 199-13(4): Post Lay-Off Training Assistance

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Mine Training Committee is just getting up and

running. Agreement to the terms of reference for the Committee was not reached until the fall. Originally, I had sought advice from representatives of the mining industry and service industry to make sure that the training that we were providing was recognized as valuable by the industry, and that they would then hire the people who had that training. One of the first recommendations was that I should look to bring in some community representatives, and the Committee was expanded in the late summer/early fall by bringing in representatives from some communities across the north. Then the Committee suggested to me that they could probably achieve more if we had a coordinator who worked to provide a liaison between communities, mining companies and service companies and to also provide them with some staff assistance. That person, Mr. Dan O'Neill, came on staff just earlier this month. Mr. Speaker, I have advised the Committee that I expect next week to step down from the Chair and the Committee should take over running its own affairs and be prepared to provide me with advice. Until now, the advice has been more of a general nature, but I am expecting more detailed program advice from them in the next week or two. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Point of order.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

We have a Member asking questions. You are interrupting. You do not have a point of order. Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 199-13(4): Post Lay-Off Training Assistance

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister indicate whether one of the things that the Mine Training Committee would look at is the feasibility of establishing a mining institute in the Northwest Territories.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 199-13(4): Post Lay-Off Training Assistance

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is one of the issues that I have sought the Committee's advice on, and some of the Members around the table have indicated that it is something they would like to look at. Whether it is a mining institute or a faculty of the college or some other approach, I am confident that we will arrive at some recommendation for strengthening mine training in the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Question period is over. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue question period.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Question period is over. So you cannot seek unanimous consent to continue. If you want to return to the item, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to question period.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 6, oral questions. Do we have any nays? You do not have unanimous consent. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, replies to budget address. Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 10: REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the next month we will be focusing our attention in this House on the government budget for the coming year. I would like to talk about the budget from two perspectives. First, from the broad territorial perspective and second, from the point of view of the people of Thebacha.

Mr. Speaker, we are in the second year of making more cuts and reductions. It is tempting to do what

previous Assemblies did. They may have tried to keep expenditures in check, but in the end they did not make the hard decisions. Instead, the residents of the territories were left with a huge debt, not all of which we can blame on the federal government. Mr. Speaker, the people of Fort Smith supported me as they thought I could make a positive difference in the way government operated. It was tempting to ignore the deficit and spend, spend, and spend some more. It is always easier to reform programs when there is a lot of money. However, in the end, Mr. Speaker, I thought of my granddaughter, my daughter, and all the other young adults and children in Thebacha and the rest of the Northwest Territories. Left unchecked, Mr. Speaker, we could have racked up a huge deficit of over \$400,000,000 in the life of this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I could not be part of leaving that kind of financial burden on the future on the future generations.

-- Applause

Mr. Speaker, I agree that we need to balance the budget and having made that agreement, I have worked with other Members to find ways of getting a balanced budget in the least harmful way. And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, this has been one of the most difficult tasks I have ever had to do in my working life, and not something I would wish on anybody. Mr. Speaker, some days, when I am trying to help yet another constituent who has lost his job or is facing reduced government benefits, I resent the position this Assembly has been placed in. There is enough work to do to get ready for division, without having to deal with making really tough decisions that people did not want to make in the past.

I know that the Ordinary Members made a real effort to ensure that reductions were fair and equitable for all residents. Many of the Ministers also tried to take this approach. However, I am not convinced that this emphasis on fairness and equity is reflected throughout this budget. I point to the level of positions lost in different communities. Mr. Speaker, it makes sense to me that regional centres and headquarters should take a harder hit than the small communities. Most of the staff in small communities are front line workers and they are very few in each and every community. I am not sure that the government gave enough consideration to the different circumstances of the various large centres. When it was time for reductions, the issue of basic fairness and equity, I think, was not adequately addressed.

Mr. Speaker, not all large centres are the same. Iqaluit, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, will be the only community in the entire Northwest Territories, up to and after division, that will in fact show a net growth and, in spite of the reductions, Yellowknife, our capital, which since 1967 has almost quintupled in size, and has been the home of the largest part of the government budget since that time. While it has taken its share of cuts, it also has the most to be cut. And as one of my colleagues said, they will be filling their boots on the benefits from the resource development that is going to be taking place around them.

Mr. Speaker, as well, I would like to point out for the benefit of people that things like transfer north of recent military air squadron which brought a huge pile of jobs to the community of Yellowknife, is there, while other communities have experienced a steady erosion as well of federal positions. Mr. Speaker, Rankin and Cambridge have done their share and led by example in the cuts.

If the devolved central government takes place in Nunavut, they may in fact break even. If that does not take place, they could in fact end up losers as well because of the reductions. Hay River, by circumstance, and by I suppose good timing and being in the right place, has got off quite lightly in both rounds of the cuts. Not seen as a regional centre and because of the shelter of amalgamation, they will get by quite lightly. Inuvik and Fort Smith, communities in the west, will at the end of the day suffer a net loss, Mr. Speaker, in positions.

We, I could tell you, in Fort Smith have experienced a clear erosion of federal government positions in all departments, probably equal to or greater than what the government of the Northwest Territories over time has done. So, Mr. Speaker, for me fairness should look at the potential opportunities of the regional centres in determining the kind of cuts that can be survived. Fort Smith does not have the resource base potential on its doorstep that other regions may have. If we want the centre of our northern post-secondary education to thrive, we have to support the community that lives in it. Mr. Speaker, the budget address emphasizes efficiency. One way to be more efficient is to make best use of local resources and a key part of this to me is training, hiring, and promoting northerners. No one knows better than northerners where the problems are with government and how we can continue to adapt the northern government system we have inherited to work better for us.

Mr. Speaker, it does not make any sense to me to invest in northerners at lower levels of our government and then leave a glass ceiling in place. Northerners live here, know what needs to be done and do not come with large removal costs. This government has lost a lot of credibility on this issue, Mr. Speaker, in recent months as a result of recent hiring decisions at senior levels of management. I hope they will take serious note of that and in future try to address that concern.

It was very refreshing to hear the Minister of Finance mention that the Minister of Education is working on a northern employment strategy. However, we are now getting close to half-way through our term and we have been asking for this since we have arrived. It is something I believe strongly in and it has to be done sooner rather than later. Mr. Speaker, many people have been hit hard by the deficit management plan. People have accepted the changes where necessary to provide a better debt free future for us and our children. Ministers and deputy ministers repeatedly told us that these things were cut to the bone. That there was no more room. I would like to believe this is true, Mr. Speaker. I would like to believe that we cut all the extras out. There should not be any frills left when we are cutting back support for single mothers and seniors.

Mr. Speaker, with this budget we will have cut almost a thousand positions in two years. We now have a civil service which is doing as much work as before but with fewer people. I know in my riding we can not take any more position cuts. People are already pushed to the limit. I must say Mr. Speaker, though it is a tradition in government, it disturbs me to hear employees within departments admit that there are still pockets of fat. To hear that we still have senior staff who tell their own staff to be sure to spend all of their budget before year end. If there is a bit of give, we should be spending it where it is needed most, in schools, adult education, income support, child intervention, and above all, job creation. We should not be spending it on nice to have but not necessary travel, computers, or contracts with consultants that may be frivolous on close examination.

Mr. Speaker, this budget represents more change for departments and staff. This translates into disruption to the public as well. It is my hope that government will have the good sense to implement the remaining changes as quickly and as expeditiously as possible to give people time to adjust and settle back into some routine sense of order. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult for all of us to look at the budget from a territorial

perspective. It is even harder for me as Member for Thebacha. In my opinion, with the passing of this budget, Fort Smith will have given enough. If there are more reductions in the future, in my opinion, they are going to have to come from the program changes and from reducing the headquarter support staff associated with those programs.

Mr. Speaker, Fort Smith is working very hard to try to increase our economic base. In the long run, the fact that we have better weather and less expensive lots and a cheaper cost of living may in fact benefit us when it comes to attracting workers from the BHP mines and other developments that will take place. As well, local entrepreneurs have been trying to develop small business. There may be spin off benefits down the road for us. As for today, this budget has hurt Fort Smith, as it has hurt just about every other community. As Ministers bring their budgets forward over the next few weeks, I intend to question decisions made and what can be done to lessen the blow. When departments start implementing these changes, I will be watching to make sure there are not additional impacts on the community I represent.

Mr. Speaker, some departments have tried to find ways to help. For example, I greatly appreciate the efforts of the Minister of Health and Social Services to address the under use of the Fort Smith hospital. Rather than just shutting the operation down, they have worked with the community to find a way to provide a smaller hospital facility to make use of other space in the areas of long term care. And as well, as Minister of Justice, they have worked with the community and have found funding to keep open the ladies jail, which is a critical territorial facility they located in Fort Smith.

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Mr. Speaker, the budget address talked about encouraging economic development. There is also funding from the budget to support mine training. In Fort Smith, we have a wonderful campus, with facilities available and ready to provide the training required for both existing and new minds. I have heard talk about setting up a mining institute. Mr. Speaker, the last thing we need is a new organization with its own administration and separate new infrastructure. I am all for a mine training institute as an arm of Aurora College, with its main campus of course in Fort Smith can play a major role. I hope the Minister of Education will support this practical approach, which seems to as well supported by the industry.

In the area of parks, Mr. Speaker, I am hoping there will be some flexibility by the Minister. Tourism through the use of parks is an important part of the Fort Smith economy. I do not mind taking reductions to the parks projects plan for Thebacha, but a complete reduction seems out of line for us. We can afford to develop our parks at a slower rate than we had intended, but we can not afford to be cut completely. I am optimistic that we will be able to continue to work with the Minister to resolve this issue and carry on with the parks development as intended in the planning process.

Mr. Speaker, during the standing committee reviews of the proposed budgets, we tried to work co-operatively with Ministers and their staffs to revise and refine changes that have been made. For those Ministers and departments who are open and up front, there will be some tough questions, but their answers have already met the test of the Ordinary Members that are watching out for the interests of their constituents.

However, for those departments who have not been quite as forthcoming, they can expect hard questions, Mr. Speaker. I am not going to support changes which will effect my constituents, such as changes to the fuel subsidy or student financial assistance, or municipal operating grants, unless I am sure all the pros and cons have been thought out before they are implemented, not afterward.

I believe we did what we had to do in these first two budgets of the 13th Assembly. However, I intend to be vigilant in ensuring that measures we approve, cause the least hardship possible for the community I represent. I also intend to push for changes next year, which I hope will improve social conditions and help create more jobs for northerners.

Mr. Speaker, once this budget is passed, I think it is critical, for this government and this Assembly, to look at areas that we can free up assets and get some money that we can focus towards job strategies. Job strategies focused on where the need is, based on the greatest need, through the communities to deliver those programs, such as the student employment program, suggested by my colleague from Yellowknife North and as spoken to by the Minister.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to point out that this budget session will be very trying on all of us and will take a lot of our energy, but we have to remember that we move forward, immediately after this, into areas of job creation and division. We have to maintain the focus

and keep the energy to do that properly. So, while we have heated debates, remember we have a long way to go together as an Assembly. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. 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. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 14: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the following document, Tabled Document 28-13(4), the Annual Report of the NWT Housing Corporation for the year 1995/96 in Inuktitut, English and French.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following documents, Tabled Document 29-13(4), The Detail of Activity by Task for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment; Tabled Document 30-13(4), The Detail of Activity by Task for the Department of Health and Social Services; and Tabled Document 31-13(4), The Detail of Expenditure and Revenue for the NWT Housing Corporation. The tabling of these documents, as requested by the Government Ops Committee, should now allow us to proceed with orderly discussion and review of the appropriate, departmental budgets. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter, Tabled Document 32-13(4), received from Mr. Peter Ernerk, regarding the under-funding of women's programs by this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document, Tabled Document 33-13(4), Alcohol and Drug Counselling Training. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a letter received from the students of the Dene Cultural Institute Alcohol and Drug Certification Program. The letter is dated January 29th, 1997 and is addressed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Mr. Roland.

**ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION**

Motion 10-13(4): Appointment of Conflict of Interest Commissioner

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**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, February 3rd, 1997, I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that, pursuant to section 79(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, that this Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, that Ms. Anne Crawford be appointed as Conflict of Interest Commissioner. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motions 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):**

I call the committee to order. We have three items on the agenda today. Bill 8, Appropriation Act 1997-98; Committee Report 2-13(4) and Committee Report 3-

13(4). Could I get some direction from committee on how you wish to proceed? Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recommend that we proceed with Bill 8, Committee Report 2 and Committee Report 3, concurrently.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Is that the agreement of the committee?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

We will proceed with .... Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Report progress?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. I do not have a quorum so I will ring the bell. I recognize a quorum. We have a motion on the floor to report progress. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? Motion is defeated. We will proceed with Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997-98. The Executive office has asked to have a 15 minute recess.

-- Break

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

I would like to call the committee back to order. We have Bill 8 that particular department is Executive Office, on page 2-14 Cabinet Secretariat, which is a continuation from yesterday and we have the Premier at the witness table. I am wondering if the Premier would like to bring in the witnesses.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Do we have the concurrence of the Members? Agreed. Proceed Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms. Thank you.



For the record, Mr. Premier, would you please introduce the witnesses to the committee.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Welcome to the committee. Particular activity we are dealing with is Cabinet Secretariat operation and maintenance. Total operation and maintenance is \$5,894,000. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my questions are directed toward Divisional Review Secretariat. I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if this review secretariat is also responsible for addressing Holman Island's divisional concerns?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Mr. Chairman, among other divisional concerns, I understand from the response from the Premier in the House, that secretary to Cabinet and some other Members of the government would be making a trip shortly to Holman to address these things, but I wonder if the fact that Holman Island is listed in the Kitikmeot regional education council is also going to be one of those specific items addressed at that time.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that is one of the community concerns, what I was suggesting to do is have Mr. Gilmour meet with MLA Mr. Steen to find out

the total issues so that we could, if it is an education issue, we could take someone from education as well, so we can address all the issues in the one meeting. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Secretariat, Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Mr. Chairman, this is obviously one of the issues that would have to be addressed because the way I understand it, Nunavut would eventually have a new legislation of their own as far as education Act, but in the present territorial Education Act, Holman is listed in Kitikmeot region and I am wondering if the secretariat could give me some idea as to how this legislation would be amended before division? Where would Holman be listed after that, as far as the Education Act is concerned?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are one of the issues that we have to address prior to division with the people of Holman as well as the MLA. Prior to that meeting the staff will be preparing themselves to go into the meeting to address these concerns and listen to the concerns of the community. Mr. Steen is correct that there will have to be some sort of change in order to bring Holman into its proper region. Thank you.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Cabinet Secretariat, operations and maintenance. Total operation and maintenance is \$5,894,000. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday the Premier had indicated that there is no policy on how many times a job has to be advertised, and he indicated that there is a possibility that sometimes jobs are only advertised once. I do not feel that advertising a job once is enough. Would the Premier try to ensure that jobs are advertised more than once unless there is an emergency?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is at the discretion of the department if they are to advertise more than once. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Cabinet Secretariat, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that advertising for a job once, I mean advertising a position once means the whole process can be easily manipulated by people who may wish to hire their friends or their relatives. I know that most people would not do this, but it seems it leaves it open to that type of thing. I wonder if the Premier would consider trying to ensure that there is some type of consistency within the advertising process that this government is going to be using for the next year.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The advertisement of the jobs, when I say it is advertised once, is the process is in place once for a position. There would be no reason to put it in place more than once because you get a lot of applications on those jobs. That would mean that it would be in the local papers, the job postings, it is throughout government, radio and in aboriginal languages as well. But when I say once, that means it goes into the newspapers for two weeks, Mr. Erasmus, like not just one edition of the newspaper. So that is plenty of time for people to apply on that job. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Operations and maintenance, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Premier indicating then that there is never any time when jobs are advertised only one week in the newspapers?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is supposed to be in the newspaper for two weeks.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Operations and maintenance. We are under the Cabinet Secretariat. Total operations and maintenance is \$5,894,000. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, yesterday I asked about the \$555,000 that is part of the secretariat management and the Premier mentioned that to the best of his knowledge, he said: I believe it will be transferred over to MACA, Health and Social Services. I wonder if he could tell us, is this a definite of, because he said I believe?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$555,000 community wellness fund is still reflected in the Executive Office's 1997-98 business plan as an allocation of \$555,000 between Health and Social Services and Municipal and Community Affairs, still has not been determined, the split of that money. Health and Social Services, Municipal and Community Affairs, have not submitted their needs assessment to the committee yet and the recommendation is for the Cabinet Secretary not to make an allocation between the two departments until the need assessments have been submitted and reviewed. So we are holding this money for them, and once they do that work, it will then be released to them. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Cabinet secretariat, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance is \$5,894,000. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Premier had indicated that there should not be any situations where a job is

only advertised once, for one week. Is there something in place to rectify the situation if a job is only advertised for one week and the position is awarded through that process?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has to be two weeks. That is the policy that you have in the newspaper. You do one advertisement for a job. One process. It is supposed to be in there for two weeks. If anybody is aware, or if people are aware that it is not in there for two weeks, then they have the right to appeal that position if it has not been in there for two weeks. That is the process. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What happens if someone does not find out for say, a month, or two months, or whatever later that it was only advertised for one week, what happens if they do not find out until later? Sometimes it might be difficult to check the papers and check what has happened. How long does a person have to appeal? Because I know that normally with the appeal process, you do not have very much time.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The Honourable Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They can still appeal to the Minister and to the department. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, if something had been awarded say, in November, someone went into a job in November of 1996 - I just want to get this more clear in my

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mind - someone who had wanted to apply on the position, found out now that they missed the ad, and it was only advertised once, could they still appeal that position?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I have said earlier, we have empowered our managers to manage and, with that, comes along the responsibility of following government policy. The way we advertise for jobs, is two editions of the newspaper. So, if it is put in there for one edition, then a public person, or the MLA, should bring it to the attention of the Minister, whose department did that, and he would have to rectify that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mahsi. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are jobs advertised in both the east and the west, western newspapers, meaning of the Northwest Territories?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Cabinet Secretariat. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What about if it is a position that requires that the person works, is responsible for stuff that is happening both in the east and the west, and the job position requires that you have knowledge of the east and the west?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we had given up many advertising dollars because we cannot afford to put advertisements in every paper, for every job. If a job is of a senior management level, where you are working with east and west, then it would be advertised in that newspaper out of Iqaluit, I forget the name of it...

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Nunatsiaq News.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Nunatsiaq News and the News of the North. It would be advertised in those, as well as the Drum, and all those other ones. If a job is specifically, for example, in Fort Simpson, then it would be advertised in the Fort Simpson paper, or Fort Smith, if it is there, then it would be advertised in that paper. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Cabinet Secretariat. I have Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are jobs posted with the employment services, employment offices of Employment Canada in the various centres and, secondly, does the government have a central advertising means, such as over the computer system?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is advertised in employment centres, not over the computers. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Cabinet Secretariat. Operations and maintenance is \$5 million. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe yesterday the Premier had indicated that the Secretariat's management area budget was about a million dollars. Was there casuals in that area last year?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

I do not know, Mr. Chairman. I do not know. I do not think so.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Total operations and maintenance. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that budget, does it provide for casuals this year?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Total operations. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Mr. Chairman, in the official languages unit, no, in the Personnel Secretariat, I am sorry, is there money allocated for casuals in that area, this year?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Twenty thousand dollars is budgeted for casual wages. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Premier. Cabinet Secretariat. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did the Premier indicate that was for the Personnel Secretariat? I am sorry, I did not quite hear the answer.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

The answer is affirmative. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there also money in the Division Review Secretariat for casuals?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. Thank you. Total operations and maintenance. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Intergovernmental Affairs, is there money for casuals?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

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**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mahsi. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Corporate Services Division, is there money for casuals?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$15 thousand.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Cabinet Secretariat. We have Mr. Erasmus and Mr. Picco. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was there any money in this area last year?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was \$53,000.95. Oh, not 95 cents, it was only \$53 thousand. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The chair would like to recognize Mr. Picco, at this time. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it seems we are nitpicking each individual line. For me, for example, I would like to continue on with the Department of Executive, so that we can get into other areas, like the women's issues, and so on. If Mr. Erasmus has these type of long questions and detailed questions, he could address them in writing and then come back to the committee of the whole later on in the next couple of days.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Your comment is noted, Mr. Picco. We have Mr. Enuaraq.

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further to comments by Mr. Picco, which are understandable and very clear, I realize that Mr. Erasmus is posing questions at the pace that he is comfortable with. I am in agreement with Mr. Picco that we have to get along with the budget within the Department of the Executive but, at the same time, Mr. Erasmus' questions, I am sure, have some sort of clarification that he requires. I am sure there is some reasoning behind his questioning because other people, besides us, are interested in the operations of the

government. Mr. Erasmus is posing questions to that effect and I think that is okay.

The only problem that I have, Mr. Chairman, is when the same question is being repeated a number of times, and it remains the same question. This is what I have a problem with but, like Mr. Erasmus, if he wants to ask questions, then he has that prerogative and so do we all as Members of the House. Our people that elected us are not aware of this information or the detail and maybe it is even better if we ask more questions than we do, so our people will have better information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
(Translation ends)

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Although we would like to move along, this is a forum where we review and consider the government budget and we are not here to debate whether Mr. Erasmus has a right, or no right, to speak in this forum. In fact, every Member has a right to speak to ease our concern, to try and make the government accountable, at the same time, representing your communities in the ridings. I do not think we are here to be ... but we would like to move along but every and each Member should understand that every Member is given that privilege to speak. I thought Mr. Erasmus was within his rights to ask. If Members feel that a Member may be prolonging the process, he has the right to express that opinion, but we should understand that each and every Member has the privilege. Thank you. I would like to thank Mr. Picco and Mr. Enuaraq for bringing their concerns but, by the same token, everyone should respect everyone in this forum. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to indicate that I am not asking these questions lightly. I do have a reason why I am asking them. This is the only place we can get answers to a lot of questions, when we are in the House. During question period, we are only allowed four questions and, many times, we are given the runaround and you cannot follow up. So, this is the only place where we are able to ask questions and try to dig out certain things. I am going to move, in a few minutes, that we defer this area because I still have a lot of questions but I want to get this area on casuals out of the way first.

Mr. Chairman, the Premier indicated that in Corporate Services Division, there was \$53 thousand spent in

casuals last year. Were all those positions advertised as well?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I know, yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. We are dealing with page 2-14, the 1997-98 main estimates, activity summary, Cabinet Secretariat. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it government policy, as well, that all casual hirings have to be advertised for two weeks?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a general advertisement for casuals, for example, for this department. Then, all their resumes are kept on file in a pool, and as we need a casual they just go to that file. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. Mr. Erasmus.

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**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How are people supposed to know that there are jobs they can apply for, if they are not advertised?

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How are people supposed to know that there are jobs they can apply for, if they are not advertised?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just explained the process to the Member. I will try again. He might be able to understand it this time. There is a general advertisement for casuals. Then the resumes are kept in a pool, and then it is drawn down from that pool. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mahsi. Secretariat. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

So, is the Premier saying that there is no advertisement for a specific casual job? That there is an advertisement saying that we want casuals, and please apply, or something to that effect?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes casuals are needed to move paper boxes around or whatever. They are needed a couple of days here, a couple of days there. It would not be effective or efficient government to advertise every casual position the government needed. Effective and efficient government would be to put out a general advertisement for a list of casual into a pool and draw from that pool. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Mr. Chairman, I also know that there are many jobs people have been in for two, three years because they have been hired as casual positions, time after time. It seems to many people that the managers in certain areas use this method to hire friends and circumvent the affirmative action policy which I am very interested in this area, and I would think that if you want to hire someone to move some boxes, that is not what I am talking about. But when there are good paying jobs and there is a lot of affirmative action people out there, they should be given the opportunity to apply. I would like to know if the Premier can ensure that the jobs that are going to be

more than say a month in length can be put out to the general public so that they know that they are there.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Without taking the right of the Member to ask questions, the Member has spent a good deal of the portion of his time asking questions. Mr. Henry has indicated that he wanted to ask. So after I let Mr. Premier respond to Mr. Erasmus, I will recognize Mr. Henry. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I have said earlier. We have given up a certain amount of advertisement dollars to cut back on costs of this government. That money is gone. It is history. The way the government handles the casual employment is that you can only have a casual maximum of four months. That is the very maximum. If you have to have a casual longer than that than it becomes a term position, and all term positions have to be in an advertisement. If Mr. Erasmus knows of specific cases, please bring them to the attention of the Minister responsible for that department, and the Minister will deal with his deputy minister on the issue. But I need specifics, I cannot deal with generalities or rumours. I need specifics. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I will recognize Mr. Henry, but that does not mean that I am taking Mr. Erasmus' right to ask a question after Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short question on Division Review Secretariat to change the pace a little bit. That department has a budget of \$1,028,000 and nine people. Can the Premier advise the committee what types of activities this Secretariat is involved in and where the money is spent in particular.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Division Secretariat major challenges for the GNWT and divisional issues, they do better communication linkages with parties to the division process, improve public understanding of division, and maintain a positive public image, and a

proactive role in establishing the GNWT's division agenda. For example, our response to Footprints 2 is basically done by the Divisional Secretariat. All communication between NTI, NIC, Ottawa, DIAND is basically taken care of by Divisional Secretariat on divisional issues. Also, we do have a presence in Iqaluit and Ottawa for division, and to be on top of those issues. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I would like to remind Members of the time we have here. Cabinet Secretariat, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Mr. Chairman. Are the casual positions also governed by our affirmative action policy?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

We have Mr. Erasmus and Mr. Ootes. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I missed Mr. Erasmus' question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Would you repeat the question, Mr. Erasmus. Thank you.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When casual positions are being filled, do the managers have to follow the affirmative action policy?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. We have Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

What progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. There is a motion to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour please signify. Opposed. This puts me in a very difficult position here. Today is Friday, and in some cases

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Members do have other things to do on Friday. Members have to travel to spend time with their families. Therefore, I will rule in favour of the motion. Thank you. I will rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The House will come back to order. Item 21, report of committee of the whole.

ITEM 21: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997-98, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Question is being called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Item 22, third reading of bills. Item 23, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

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

Mr. Speaker, the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social Programs at 1:15 p.m. Meetings for Monday, February 3, at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, at 10:30 a.m. of the Ordinary Members' Caucus.

Orders of the day for Monday, February 3, 1997:

1. Prayer



2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. 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
  - Motion 9-13(4)
  - Motion 10-13(4)
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 the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned to Monday, February 3 at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

**MR. SPEAKER:**