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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Before we proceed with orders of the day, I have a little message here. I would like to inform the House of the unfortunate absence of the Speaker. The Honourable Sam Gargan, due to an illness in the family, had to return home to Fort Providence. I understand that he hopes to be back in the House tomorrow. I trust you will be kind to me today, as I try and fill in as your Speaker. Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

Point of Privilege

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Miltenberger, point of privilege.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on a point of privilege to clarify, at the first available opportunity, a concern about conflict of interest on my part. Mr. Speaker, Members of this House are very conscious of the potential for real or perceived conflict of interest. When we take office, we declare business and financial interests and set ourselves at arm's length from any businesses we might have. When matters arise in the House, which we are directly involved in, such as a loan from a government agency, we excuse ourselves from the discussion.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the potential for conflict and try to be careful on what I say in this House. For all of my colleagues, such as Mr. Picco, I have raised

concerns about libraries and I have commented on the role of promoting literacy. I see the role of community libraries as a territorial issue. In this light, Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, questions in the House on Friday, January 31, contained on pages 537, 538 and 539 of the unedited Hansard. My questions were intended to address the territorial-wide concerns about community libraries, just as my colleagues have been raising for a number of days.

However, there was, apparently, some concern over possible conflict of interest, since my wife is a community librarian and I was addressing funding for libraries. On territorial issues, Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to know when we can speak. If a Member has a wife who owns a business, can he participate in discussions on BIP, which could benefit her financially? If a Member's wife works for a women's shelter, is it alright for him to question the cuts to funding in women's shelters?

MR. PICCO:

Point of privilege.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. We have one point of privilege. The Member for Thebacha is raising a point of privilege. Once the Member for Thebacha has concluded the point of privilege, I will recognize Mr. Picco. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Out of respect for the integrity of this House and the potential for perceived conflict of interest, I wish to advise my honourable colleagues, that I will refrain, in future, from raising the issue of funding for community libraries in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member mentioned, in a veiled way, my earlier response last week on a question to another Minister concerning spousal assault homes. Mr. Speaker, he has infringed upon my rights as a Member, the Member for Thebacha, in his statement, and I would ask the Speaker to rule that he would strike anything from the

record infringing on my privilege as a Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger has raised a point of privilege to a statement that he made Friday and Mr. Picco has requested a point of privilege to allow the debate on the point of privilege on Mr. Picco. To the point of privilege, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the point of privilege that I raised, I think, was a good one, in that the point of privilege was in response to Mr. Miltenberger's point of privilege on the point of privilege which was a point of privilege. And my point, Mr. Speaker, was well taken by the Members of this House, and that was the Member had a veiled reference to me, when I asked a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services on funding cuts and wage cuts, and the increases to such, on behalf of the dedicated, front-line employees that we had working in spousal assault homes. I do not think, in his return, that he should have mentioned in passing and he infringed on my privileges, as a Member, when he made that statement.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Picco. To the point of privilege, Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to engage this House in a protracted debate on this particular issue. I just wanted to point out the difficulty in the area when we want to clarify a point of conflict. Where is that line drawn? I am not sure what the point of privilege is. Is it okay to talk about women's shelters, but not community libraries? Where is the line drawn? It poses a very interesting question to me in terms of the freedom of speech for MLAs in this House in the areas that we can feel free to talk about

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when we start drawing these kinds of lines. I acknowledge maybe, I will not raise this particular issue for funding for community libraries, because of that concern. I want to point out to this House that it is not a clear-cut, black and white issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. To the point of privilege, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Miltenberger makes a good point because, over the last few days, I have been questioning libraries. As a person who holds a library card, am I in a conflict? I think his point is well-taken and I would respect your ruling tout suite. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Any further point of privilege? Madam Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to rise on point of privilege today with respect to Mr. Miltenberger's remarks in this House. If Mr. Miltenberger feels that he said something on Friday that he should not have said, he has every opportunity to stand up and retract those and apologize for them. He does not need to try and implicate everyone else or other Members of this House in his mistake. I do take exception to him referring to the business incentive policy and people who may have a spouse that owns a business. I not only have a spouse that owns a business, I also own a business and I believe that he is misleading this House, by suggesting that all business deals need to take place in an arm's length fashion.

In fact, if you refer to the Conflict of Interest Act, it says: "When a member or a spouse or dependent child of a member, has significant, private interests that afford the member, or the spouse or dependent child of the member, the opportunity to directly or indirectly benefit from the performance of any of the duties of their office, they are in conflict." I would like to suggest that Mr. Miltenberger, by his comments, not on a territorial basis, but in reference to Fort Smith specifically and community libraries specifically on Friday, was probably over the line, and he can stand up and he can speak about that and he can retract that, but he does not need to implicate the rest of us by talking about the business incentive policy, which is truly territorial.

He does not need to refer to Members of this House, who may have a loan with the government because he is trying to implicate us all. I do not appreciate that

and I do feel he has infringed on my integrity by his remarks. Thank you.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. I am advised that now we have two points of privilege here. We have a new point of privilege to be raised, I will reserve ruling and provide it to the House. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin, thank you. The Premier.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just on the point of privilege, while you are looking at the whole issue under point of privilege and reviewing Hansard, I would request you, at the same time, to review the Member from Hay River's statement. I may not have heard it very correctly but it is my understanding that the general public have available to them, as well as Members of this Legislative Assembly, a process if they feel a Member is in conflict with his duties and that process is through the Conflict Commissioner's office, not to make unfounded accusations across the floor of the House. So that is basically what I am requesting you look at. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Speaker will be ruling on the point of privileges made in this House. By that matter, we will be checking the Hansard tomorrow. Thank you. If there are no further points of privilege, I have item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 37-13(4): Health and Social Services Reform

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the health and social services system in the Northwest Territories is in need of fundamental reform. As our population grows, the demands placed on the system grow as well. But at the same time, the resources available for meeting that need have been declining. We need to make changes now, to make sure that the health and social services system of the future will be able to meet northerners' continuing needs. This is essential,

if we are to maintain and improve the services offered to our residents in the face of shrinking financial resources.

Reform has to be planned and strategic. We need to make changes for the future now, while still meeting the needs of today.

During the development of the 1997/98 business plan, the Department of Health and Social Services received approval to begin the process of strategic reform. We have done this by committing to a principle-based approach and by beginning to work with our partners in the health care system towards the development of a comprehensive, strategic plan.

The strategic plan will give us a vision of the health and social services system of the future and will show us the steps that must be taken to get there.

In his budget address, last week, my colleague, the Honourable Mr. Todd, referenced this strategic planning process, which will provide the basis for the future development of two, sustainable health care systems.

We are committed to a broad and timely public consultation as an integral part of this process. We need to hear from people across the north about what is important to them, about their expectations and needs and about their ideas on how we can reform the system to meet our goals.

In order to prepare fully for such a public consultation, we must first complete a comprehensive analysis of the current system and a detailed assessment of the challenges facing us and the options facing us. In doing this, we also need to take into consideration the extensive work done by the regional boards, especially the needs assessments already completed. We need to build on the work already done by both board and departmental staff.

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To help us with the task of integrating our knowledge and experience into a comprehensive and accurate strategic plan, while still allowing staff to continue their essential work of program delivery, the Department of Health and Social Services has taken the step of contracting with a multi-disciplinary group of health and social services specialists.

This consultant group, Med-Emerg International Incorporated, will provide us with an objective look at the data we have collected. They will review the work

we have already done on health and social services reform, identify any information gaps, and ensure that our conclusions are logical and consistent with other initiatives at the territorial, provincial, and federal levels of government.

A team from Med-Emerg will begin visits to the NWT during the next two weeks. They will be meeting with employees of the department and boards, our partners, and our clients. In the weeks following, Med-Emerg will review the data and prepare a draft strategic directions document, which will serve as the basis for the plan to be taken to broad public consultation beginning this summer.

To guide the strategic planning process, I am chairing a steering committee comprised of the chairs of the Baffin and Inuvik Regional Health Boards and the chair of the Northwest Territories Health Care Association.

Mr. Speaker, we need to move quickly to develop this new health and social services system. The benefits of health system reform will take years to realize.

One of the challenges we face is ensuring the infrastructure which supports the provision of public health services. Adequate funding is essential for construction of appropriate facilities. However, this is only one very small part of the total health and social services system.

As my honourable colleague, the Minister of Finance noted, simply increasing funding for social programs is not a long-term solution for the future of the health and social services system. Steps must be taken now to reduce future needs for our services. Through the steps we have taken, the Department of Health and Social Services is moving to develop a health and social services system that will continue to meet the basic needs of northerners for years to come.

In doing this, we are committed to an approach that upholds and builds on the principles of the Canada Health Act - universality, portability, comprehensiveness, accessibility, and public administration - and truly reflects the needs and aspirations of northerners.

By fall of this year, we hope to have a completed strategic plan that will serve as the basis for the development of effective, sustainable health and social services systems in two territories well into the next century.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to consulting further with all of you as we move forward with this plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Ministers' statements. Mrs. Manitok Thompson. Thank you.

Ministers' Statement 38-13(4): Results of Mary-Beth Miller and Moira Green (Biathlon)

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the World Winter University Games were held recently in Muju, South Korea. I would like to congratulate two NWT biathlon athletes on their strong showing at this competition. Mary-Beth Miller of Yellowknife, was the top Canadian in the women's 7.5 kilometre biathlon, finishing 26th, with a total time of 30 minutes, 36.2 seconds. Moira Green of Hay River, finished 30th in the 7.5 kilometre biathlon, with a time of 40 minutes, 27.2 seconds.

These two young women are also excellent role models for our youth in the NWT through their devotion they have shown to their sport and the many hours they have dedicated to training to achieve success at both the national and international level. They are examples of what our youth are capable of.

Members may remember that both of these athletes were also part of the biathlon team that represented the NWT at the 1995 Canada Games, winning a bronze medal in the relay event.

We should also recognize the support that these elite athletes have received and continue to receive from their parents and their fellow team members, which has assisted them in getting to the level that they are at today.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that Members will join me in congratulating Mary-Beth Miller and Moira Green for their fine performances in biathlon at the World Winter University Games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' Statement On Constitutional Development and Self-Government Processes

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to support the people in Nunavut, and commend them for the hard work they are doing in regards to their inventions for a government for the east in 1999. But I would also like to state,

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in regards to the west, that when it comes to the whole question of constitutional development and division, that the people in the west have to put their differences aside and work towards a process that we can all live with, and the adequate resources have to be there.

Mr. Speaker, the other process that I would like to touch on is the whole question about self-government in regards to the process that aboriginal people and groups are presently under. Mr. Speaker, there have been comments made in this House about the whole question about a million dollars which is going to be spent for constitutional development and self-government. I would like the people to be aware that there are land claims agreements which have been signed with this government and the federal government which clearly states an obligation to settle the whole question about constitutional development and self-government.

Also, I would like to state that the adequate funding for aboriginal organizations in regards to core funding for funding constitutional for self-government talks has not been adequate to date. Yet, we bicker amongst ourselves in this House when it comes to that issue. I would like to state that myself, I do support aboriginal initiatives when it comes to claim settlements, self government talks, and the constitutional process.

But what kind of a message are we sending to the people in the west when it comes to the whole question about funding a process which will either mean to resolve outstanding issues the question about constitutional development for the west.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can put aside our differences and assure the aboriginal community and the people of the north that we will work to resolve these issues and not bicker about them in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger, Member for Thebacha.

Members' Statement On NWT Senior Hockey Championship

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last weekend, in Fort Smith, the community was treated to some extremely high calibre, high intensity hockey with the territorial senior men's championship being held there. Mr. Speaker, there were teams from across the NWT, as well as northern Alberta. There was a team from Iqaluit, Rankin, from the Sahtu, from Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, and Hay River, Fort Chipewyan, and two teams from Fort Smith.

Mr. Speaker, a tournament of this magnitude has a lot of logistical issues to deal with inside and out of the community, and I would like to acknowledge the work done by the person who spear-headed the move to have the territorial championships in Fort Smith, Mr. Danny Brookson. They did most ably by Mr. John Chee and Chris Podiak. Mr. Speaker, as an aging senior hockey player and now an old-timer, I was very impressed by the calibre of hockey across the north. There are some very, very high calibre players that we have the privilege of having live in this territory.

Mr. Speaker, Fort Smith ended up in third place. Yellowknife, unfortunately, ended up in second, and the top prize for this hard fought tournament went to Hay River, the Hay River Ice, and they were a team that was definitely worthy of being champions in this instance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Keewatin, Mr. O'Brien.

Members' Statement On Reductions to NWT Women's Groups

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to address the proposed budget cuts to the women's groups of the NWT. Mr. Speaker, I can not support this reduction, and find it unacceptable that such a cut is being recommended at this time. Mr. Speaker, I have said many times in this House over the past year, that I agree that we can not carry a huge debt into division, but that I was more concerned with how and where the cuts were being applied. Surely, we are not at the point where we are cutting programs that deliver the most benefit and are most needed. Mr. Speaker, at the front lines and in the trenches are women's groups working with the many horrendous, and damaging social problems and issues that we unfortunately are plagued with in the NWT. Mr. Speaker, on one hand we are increasing the budget for our social envelope by \$9,000,000. On the other hand, we are cutting the funds for the individuals who would provide these essential and humanistic services to our ill and less fortunate northerners. Mr. Speaker, I would strongly suggest that the approximate \$30,000 cut be reconsidered for our women's groups and organizations, and for the good work that they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

Members' Statement On Impacts of Deficit Reduction Strategy

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our financial game plan of eliminating the deficit is working. We are completing downsizing of government. We have reduced the capital budget by \$50,000,000. We have reduced the PYs this year, or are proposing to reduce them, by about 400 PYs and last year by 400 PYs. Our deficit elimination plan is a success, but we are also creating a northern slump with that process, something never experienced in the history of the government of the north.

While balancing the books is necessary, it is time to move forward, to create a solid future. One of the ways to deal with the social malaise we have here in the north and the fiscal problems, is to induce more jobs and growth. Northerners want jobs; jobs with a future. We need the government to provide a job strategy, a plan of action that involves the resources and energy of every government department and it

should involve the partnership with industry, government and business, working together.

Meaningful job opportunities do not just happen. They are created as a result of initiative, and that is what the government is here for, to take that initiative. Two initiatives come to mind: youth employment and infrastructure building.

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Last year, I spoke about the need for a youth employment program. Young people face a real challenge here in the north. More than half under the age of 24 are unemployed. We need to increase the number of jobs for summer students.

We need to create hope and opportunity for young people. It should be high on our priority list. We need a strategy to place those who graduate from our colleges and schools and universities. With regard to infrastructure building, this is an area that is an excellent example of job creation. One solution is to form partnerships with the private sector to raise large sums of capital that can be used to build infrastructure and thus create work.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Ootes, your time has run out. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? No nays, continue Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We need the government to be creative in developing programs, job programs. There is absolutely no reason why we can not be as creative here in the north as the government of Canada was back in 1939/40, when they borrowed large sums of money to end the depression. Not exactly the same similarities, but we do have to be creative in this day and age. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Henry.

Members' Statement On Inaccurate Statements About Yellowknife

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in politics we all take liberties, but I have to take exception when public figures make statements about my community that are misleading and inaccurate. Mr. Speaker, in his reply to the budget address last Friday, the MLA from Thebacha made misleading and inaccurate statements in this House about Yellowknife.

-- Applause

MR. HENRY:

I quote from the January 31, 1997 unedited Hansard on page 552, which states, and I quote, "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" end quote. I would attempt to respond to what I believe that he is saying regarding the position of the statement about the huge pile of jobs created by the 440 Air Squadron relocated to Yellowknife. I had discussions with the Department of National Defence officials in Yellowknife, and I am informed that there were 12 jobs created by the installation of the recent military air squadron located in Yellowknife airport.

Not exactly a huge pile of jobs. The MLA's statement which, I believe, also refers to an increase in federal employee growth in Yellowknife is also inaccurate. The reality is that Yellowknife has suffered its share of federal cut backs, with decreases of 27 positions alone at CBC North, as well as reductions at Environment Canada's Atmospheric Weather Service. Human Resources Canada in Yellowknife is down a number of positions from last year. Indian and Northern Affairs' employees are down 4 percent from last year. Mr. Miltenberger talked about the community of Yellowknife having quadrupled in size since it became the capital in 1967. This may be true, but he neglected to say that Yellowknife was built by private individuals who responded to the needs of the Government of the Northwest Territories, federal

government and private sector for office and retail space and other services

-- Applause

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear! Hear!

MR. HENRY:

Yellowknife was built by industrious individuals who went to financial institutions and borrowed money. Yes, Mr. Speaker, borrowed money to augment their hard earned cash and invested in infrastructure...

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Henry, your time has run out. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Can we have order in the House? The honourable Member has the same privilege as any other Member to make a Member's statement without being disrupted. Mr. Henry is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? Mr. Henry, you have unanimous consent.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It takes a little longer to make a statement with all the catcalls and that. Mr. Speaker, something that I think is worth repeating, Yellowknife was built by industrious individuals who went to financial institutions and borrowed money. Yes, Mr. Speaker, borrowed money to augment their hard earned cash and invested in an infrastructure to supply those needs.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear! Hear!

MR. HENRY:

That is how you build a business community. You identify needs that are not being supplied in your community. Go to your local bank. Take out a mortgage. Put up your own cash, and take the risk

that goes with. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that it is a darn sight more productive to do it this way, than complaining about what another community's industrious individuals have, that yours does not have.

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person across the NWT has been \$1,400. In Yellowknife, it has been \$783, which is almost half the territorial average. My fellow Member from Thebacha alluded to Yellowknife as having the largest government budget since it became capital. While this may be true by virtue of our larger population, it certainly does not reflect in the amount Yellowknife receives in capital funding, Mr. Speaker.

There were several glowing accolades to the government on its initiatives, included in the 1997/98 budget by the MLA for Thebacha outlined. I also admit that there are some very good things in this budget, like balancing the books, and not increasing taxes. While the government could have achieved the same result in another fashion is what I believe needs discussing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Madam Groenewegen.

Members' Statement On Impact of Reductions to Women's Groups

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide this House with some examples of the impact that the government's 10 percent cuts will have on women's organizations in the NWT. Ten percent might not seem like much when people are losing their jobs, but we have to look at the impact of 10 percent. Women's Initiatives Grants Program is a source of money for community women's groups, and other organizations. These are the foundation projects that can have a real impact on local people through community women who know what is needed, who are working to reduce social problems where this government is facing the largest incremental costs.

The Status of Women Council is doing other work, like the study on the needs of breast cancer survivors, another on human rights legislation affecting women, work that will help young women to enter non-

traditional occupations, work on community wellness, and a long list of other projects, Mr. Speaker. Its ability to continue this work and to provide this knowledge to government and to community women will be hampered. Women's groups at the community level have almost no money to operate, yet the Council will likely be forced to charge them for the information and workshops it has always provided for free.

Women's groups, especially those just starting out, want and need help with board development, proposal writing, workshops on self-esteem, healthy parenting, healthy relationships, family violence, but the Council's already tiny budget for the community worker to give workshops will be cut. Often the Council helps these groups access sources of money outside of the NWT, but that will also be reduced. Staff of women's organizations already earn less than equivalent government positions, and putting long hours of voluntary overtime because of their dedication, yet because some expenses are fixed, the organizations will have to look at more than 10 percent cut to salaries, when the government only asked their staff to take 6.25 percent. I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member for Hay River is requesting unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? No nays. Conclude your statement, please. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Women are asking, are these cuts fair? Women are wondering what this says about this government's stated commitment to work for women's equality, when it is willing to place so little value on the work of women who are working for women. Mr. Speaker, I hope this Legislature will reconsider its decision to cut women's program funding by ten percent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement On Overview of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar"

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, good representation usually brings good government. This morning I spent over an hour and a half attempting to download information on William Shakespeare. There were 1,832 matches for the site. Mr. Speaker, I will now give an overview of William Shakespeare's play, Julius Caesar. The three villains in the play, Julius Caesar, are Cassius, Brutus and Anthony through the use of their rhetoric and deceitfulness. Cassius is the first character that really stands out as a villain. He uses his craftiness early on in the play to win Brutus to the conspirator's side. "If I have a veil, my look, I turn the trouble of my countenance merely upon myself". Brutus, Act I, scene II. Cassius is consumed with jealousy. His talent for rhetoric is displayed when Cassius goes to any means necessary to convince both the other conspirators and the crowd that Caesar was a totalitarian dictator. Another villain of Julius Caesar is Brutus. The only reason that Brutus fits into the category of a villain is because of the way he betrays a friend. Brutus could have handled Caesar his own way. He did not have to give in to the crowd, so instead of working out a solution himself, he gave into a solution that would yes, solve the problem but would take a man's life as pay out.

The last villain in Julius Caesar is Anthony. Anthony takes a severe turn for the worse after Caesar dies. While Caesar is alive, he is a very loyal and just to his friend who he appears to admire and respect, but when he sees the opening for power, he does a 180 degrees turn.

What epitomizes this is when he trades his cousin's life for an uncle. I do not believe that Julius Caesar had a snowball's chance in Hades to actually live the rest of his life. When he became that successful, he signed his own death warrant. The

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three villains who helped him sign that warrant were Cassius, Brutus and Anthony. All doing it for the good of Rome.

Mr. Speaker, my point, of course, is that the information highway and modern technology, the Minister of Education is hoping will replace books is a long way off. The same information, I just read out, would have taken me about five minutes using the tried and true Dewey Decimal system to find and research as facilitated by the regional local libraries and librarians who will not be there if the proposed layoffs and reductions continue. Et tu, Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 93-13(4): Decision to Replace Chair of the Liquor Licensing Board

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Henry on January 23, with respect to the chair of the Liquor Licensing Board. Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that a letter was indeed sent to Mr. Williams on December 10, 1996, by the former Minister responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board, the Honourable Jim Antoine, informing Mr. Williams that his appointment was revoked effective December 13, 1996. Unfortunately, this letter was returned undelivered by the post office. Mr. Williams is therefore correct that he did not receive official written notification of the termination of his appointment. Mr. Speaker, I again wish to apologize to Mr. Williams for this unfortunate situation, as I indicated in my earlier response to Mr. Henry. This is not an acceptable standard and it should not have happened. I will ensure that a new letter is immediately sent to Mr. Williams, advising him of these developments, and I sincerely hope that he will accept my apology on behalf of myself, the former Minister Mr. Antoine, and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Returns to oral questions. Madame Thompson.

Return to Question 51-13(4): Status of Transfer of an EDO to Hall Beach

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two returns to oral questions. The first one was asked by Mr. Barnabas on November 29, 1996, that is of the EDO transfer to Arctic Bay community empowerment. A letter was sent to the Member on December 12, 1996 during session break to advise him of the situation in Arctic Bay. I stated in the letter the municipal office is fairly

new having been completed in 1993. It is able to accommodate perhaps two more people. In addition, there is a possibility that some GNWT office space might become available for the hamlet depending on the nature of future program transfers. The Economic Development Division of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is working with the hamlet on the transfer of the economic development function. A draft agreement was provided to the hamlet on Friday, January 24, 1997. Our superintendent in Iqaluit is continuing to facilitate the community empowerment process and will work with the community and departments in the Baffin Region on program transfers.

Return To Question 147-13(4): ADM for Community Empowerment

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

I have another return to an oral question asked by Mr. Erasmus on January 28, the question of the ADM for community empowerment. I am able to advise the Member and this House that four candidates were interviewed for the position of assistant deputy minister, Community Development and Empowerment. Two candidates were northern applicants; two candidates were southern Canadian applicants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, honourable Minister. Returns to oral questions. Are there further returns to oral questions? Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a former member of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, who is now with the Anglican Church here in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Patrick Scott.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. 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 of the NWTTA who is keeping a close eye on Mr. Todd, for sure. Welcome to the House.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Welcome to the House. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure whether they are here but they said they were going to be. I would like to recognize Mr. Don Webb and his wife, Gwen Webb, two constituents of mine from Fort Smith who are on some business in Yellowknife.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. That was very kind of you but unfortunately, they are not here. Thank you anyway. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 200-13(4): Funding for Regional Libraries

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the proposed new funding formula for libraries seems to be very unfair on several levels. Using a formula based solely on population fails to recognize the higher costs

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in Nunavut and the dis-economies of scale of providing services to smaller communities. The result is that Yellowknife, yes Yellowknife, the richest community in the Northwest Territories, will have its funding increased at the expense of every other community which currently has a library. In total, funding for communities in the western Northwest Territories, will increase by \$100 thousand, while funding for communities in Nunavut, will decrease by \$60 thousand. This is not acceptable, Mr. Speaker. This method of calculating funding levels sets a very dangerous precedent in the division of the Northwest Territories' assets and liabilities. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable Minister of Education,

Culture and Employment. Can he explain this formula for me?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 200-13(4): Funding for Regional Libraries

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we have a proposed formula, I will be happy to explain it to the Member. The Member seems to have obtained a draft, which was not intended for public consultation. As I told the House last week, there was a first cut sent out to regional superintendents for comment before being refined further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 200-13(4): Funding for Regional Libraries

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are proposals and then there are prophecies. Some times the prophecy follows the proposal. After saying that, someone else once said that you can find any word in the dictionary, but only if you know how to spell it first. This is the same for the Internet. You have to know how to use it before you can get information from it. So, my question to the Minister is, we do not have supportive regional librarians, and you are reducing the funding as supposedly proposed, can the Minister explain to me who will be providing these supportive services at the community level?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 200-13(4): Funding for Regional Libraries

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have told Members in this House, the other regions in the Northwest Territories seem to be able to get the services quite adequately. I am confident that we will

continue to be able to provide those services in the Baffin and Keewatin after the two positions are eliminated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 200-13(4): Funding for Regional Libraries

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is very hard to argue against the Minister when he says that this debate, I should not use the word argue because I am not trying to argue, when he says, and probably rightfully so, that those positions will be eliminated. What does that mean when he says eliminated? I have to ask. Does that mean we are not going to have any libraries? Because a library is more than just the people, it is also the services that these people are providing. It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that there is a possible increase to the Yellowknife library budget. Part of this is supposed to go towards supporting interlibrary services in the east. However, I understand the Yellowknife library has a policy that they service their clients first and then send materials out. Can the Minister explain how increasing funding to the Yellowknife library will help provide better services to the Baffin and Keewatin communities, which he is telling me will not suffer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. I would like to remind all the Members of this House that question period is there to seek information, not to provoke debate. Secondly, I would also like to remind all the Members of this House, when you ask an initial question, you are allowed preamble. Supplementaries you do not need to come up with a preamble. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 200-13(4): Funding for Regional Libraries

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are two issues. The Member seems to have confused them by putting them together. One issue is regional librarians. The elimination of two regional librarian positions is contained in the 1997-98 budget. That has nothing to do with books, Mr. Speaker. The regional librarians provide services to support

community libraries. The community libraries are not going to receive any less funding in the 1997-98 budget. There has not been any proposed change there at all. What we have started, is the process of consultation, to look at how we might more equitably provide support to community libraries across the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. At the same time, I would like to remind the Ministers that are responding to Members to try to be concise with the answer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Picco, final supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 200-13(4): Funding for Regional Libraries

MR. PICCO:

Thank you. My final supplementary then. If there are no proposed changes, then what is this proposal that he is looking at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister Dent.

Further Return To Question 200-13(4): Funding for Regional Libraries

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I said there was some consultation that has just started. The process has just started to take a look at whether or not we can more equitably support libraries in every

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community across the Northwest Territories. It is a different issue from the regional librarians, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 201-13(4): Funding for Constitutional Development

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine. It is in relation to my statement I made in the House earlier. In regards to the whole question about funding for aboriginal organizations, in regards to self-government talks or the constitutional process, I would like to know exactly how much money has been spent directly to aboriginal organizations for self-government talks? Also, how much money has been spent on the constitutional process to date for the west?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I am informed that perhaps it should have been a written question, but I will allow the honourable Mr. Antoine, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Constitutional Affairs. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you are right it is a detailed question and I do not have the figures at my finger tips so, I would like to take this question as notice and provide the answer at a later time. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 202-13(4): Process for Letting Construction Contracts

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Public Works. Last week I asked several questions in regard to the types of contracts that the government let, and reference was made to public tender, sole-sourced and negotiated. Then in the course of questions, it was revealed that we have requests for proposals, also construction management proposals and site superintendent services. Dealing with the construction management proposal, there is no information released when a contract is awarded under this system. The price and the reasons for the award are not available to the contractor, nor to those submitting proposals, nor to the public at large. Individual contractors are not allowed to see their own ratings after a contract has been awarded. They should be able to see this, Mr. Speaker, and I would ask the Minister, since this is an

issue of disclosure, if he could tell us if my information is, first of all, correct?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 202-13(4): Process for Letting Construction Contracts

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the process is that, when a contractor that has bid on a project is unsuccessful, the Department of Public Works writes letters to all unsuccessful bidders on who the winner was and they are given an opportunity to ask questions or ask for clarifications and at that point in time the department is available to discuss the pros and cons of their proposal.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 202-13(4): Process for Letting Construction Contracts

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the construction management proposal, it has been brought to my attention that the amount of the successful bid is not revealed and the criteria for ratings is not revealed to the contractor submitting the proposal. Would the Minister ensure that those contractors who did submit proposals are given their rating sheets, Mr. Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister for Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 202-13(4): Process for Letting Construction Contracts

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, if there is a specific contract that the Member is talking about I would be interested in perhaps getting the file and looking into it. As I said, the process was that if an unsuccessful contractor is interested in how they did and wishes to talk to the people that appraised their proposal and get

comments and feedback on how they did and how they can improve, they can in fact do that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 202-13(4): Process for Letting Construction Contracts

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that it is general policy in the construction management proposals that the amount of the award is not revealed and the criteria for making the ratings of the contractors is not revealed. I will ask the Minister again, will he ensure that information is revealed under the construction management proposals for the contractors? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister for Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 202-13(4): Process for Letting Construction Contracts

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I can certainly look into that. The unsuccessful bidders can, in fact, go and talk with the Public Works and Services staff about their own proposal, but a lot of the times the information in those documents is privileged and confidential, therefore we do not make them available to any others. But I will look into the Member's concerns.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 202-13(4): Process for Letting Construction Contracts

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The contractors are not allowed to see their own ratings sheets nor is it announced to the public or to other contractors how much the bids were

for. Will the Minister reveal that information on ratings sheets for individual contractors to those particular contractors?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Minister, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 202-13(4): Process for Letting Construction Contracts

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, there is a process in place and the prices that individual contractors put forward are in fact made public as far as I understand. However, bid documents often contain very private and confidential matters about individual companies, and that was the area that I was talking about. There are changes required to the process on how some of the things are given out to companies. I will look into those concerns.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Honourable Member for Hay River, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 203-13(4): GNWT Response to NWTTA Petition

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NWT Teachers' Association has filed a petition with the federal government asking for the overturn of the GNWT's Public Service Act, which was recently used to impose a new contract on teachers. It is my understanding that the president of the association, Pat Thomas, has indicated that the petition represents an effort to take every step possible to get an acceptable contract for the teachers. I wonder if the Minister of Finance could please advise the House of the current status of this government's response to that most recent action? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 203-13(4): GNWT Response to NWTTA Petition

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have no response. The NWTTA has filed an appeal to the federal Cabinet to overturn legislation and I say good luck to them.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 203-13(4): GNWT Response to NWTTA Petition

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the contract with the NWT Teachers' Association is just one of several contracts that are negotiated with territorial employees and the public service, and I was wondering if this is the last and only outstanding contract to be dealt with? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Honourable Minister, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 203-13(4): GNWT Response to NWTTA Petition

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, as you know, we did make an arrangement with the UNW earlier in the year. My understanding is that the NWT Power Corporation has finalized their negotiations and the union is seeking ratification for that. We do not know what the result will be of that. I am advised that their union is going to recommend that the changes that they negotiated, subject to the NWT Power Corporation ratifying their agreement, the only agreement left would be the NWT Teachers' Association.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Question 204-13(4): Student Financial Assistance Modifications

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to direct to the honourable Member Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture, and Employment. (Translation ends) student financial

assistance. Can the Minister for Education and Cultural Careers confirm this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 204-13(4): Student Financial Assistance Modifications

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can say that I have advised the Standing Committee on Social Programs that, in order to ensure the fiscal sustainability of the program in future years, we are going to have to look at making some changes. It is my intention to introduce into this House a discussion paper later this year to follow up on that process.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Barnabas, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 204-13(4): Student Financial Assistance Modifications

MR. BARNABAS:

Can the Minister tell this House who he will be consulting with in his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 204-13(4): Student Financial Assistance Modifications

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the intention is to consult not just within the department, but by introducing the paper in this House to ensure that the public has an opportunity to provide comments on how the students financial assistance program should be modified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 204-13(4): Student Financial Assistance Modifications

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends) adult student in these reductions.

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 204-13(4): Student Financial Assistance Modifications

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not certain that I caught all of the Member's question, but it would be premature for me to now outline any significant program changes. There are no changes financially to the amount of support available to students planned for the '97/98 academic year. If we make significant changes, which might effect the financial arrangements, that would be in the '98/99 fiscal year. We are planning to undertake extensive consultations in the interim to ascertain what the public feels is acceptable in terms of changes to the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 205-13(4): Communication Strategy Update

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Last Saturday I met with quite a number of business people in Fort Smith to discuss the economy and issues of concern in the community. They made it abundantly clear to me the negative impacts that they have felt as a result of the government restructuring and downsizing. There is also repeated reference to the lack of awareness of any government plan, other than cutting. In spite of, Mr. Speaker, the work that we have done in other areas and the plans that we have tried to lay out. Which speaks to the issue that has been before this House for a number of months, in fact since we have been elected, and that is the whole of the communication plan for this government that will clearly outline what we are planning to do, what we have done, our successes, areas we have to work

on, and most importantly, where we are going. Can the Minister indicate the status of this particular initiative that has been in the works now for some time? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Honourable Premier, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 205-13(4): Communication Strategy Update

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Presently Cabinet has approved a communication strategy for this government. We are in the process now of tidying it up and taking it to committee, hopefully it will get to committee this week, or next week, so that we can schedule a meeting, and next week into Caucus. Hopefully, we will be ready for that. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry, the honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Question 206-13(4): Origin of Consulting Contractor

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng. Mr. Ng advised us today about the health and social services reform review. Going through this review, I notice the name of Med-Emerg International Incorporated. Can the Minister advise the House if this is a northern company and what their expertise is, as opposed to others in this field. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 206-13(4): Origin of Consulting Contractor

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a company that is based in Toronto. We did take a look at whether or not there was northern expertise, not only in the Northwest Territories, but throughout Canada in this area of medical consultants. It is a very specialized field, and that is one of the main reasons why we picked this group, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Roland.

Question 207-13(4): Community Library Funding

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions will be directed to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, I have heard concerns being raised in the community of Inuvik concerning community libraries and their funding. As I heard the Minister respond to the Member from Iqaluit on the proposal that is out there, can the Minister confirm for me, and Members of this House, that there will be no changes to the community library funding situation for this fiscal year? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 207-13(4): Community Library Funding

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I can confirm is that there are no changes proposed at this point in time. We have started the process to take a look at how we might more equitably provide service to all of the communities in the Northwest Territories. I am sure that the honourable Member for Inuvik will recognize that, for instance, the Member who sits beside him in the House has communities that receive absolutely no funding for community libraries. We have to find some way to address that situation. What has happened so far, Mr. Speaker, is that the first draft of the paper was sent out to ask our regional superintendents for advice on how they felt that draft should be restructured before we broaden the scope of the consultation process. I can commit that I will come back to the committee and this forum will have a chance to comment on any change before it is put in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 207-13(4): Community Library Funding

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister then inform me as to the time line that this would take, for having the consultation broaden out and having input from community members? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

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Further Return To Question 207-13(4): Community Library Funding

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the time table would be. I would expect that the earliest we could be back with a refined discussion paper would probably be in time for the next session, which might occur in late May, early June. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 207-13(4): Community Library Funding

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform me if the communities that do have libraries functioning, will they be able to receive their contributions for this fiscal year? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 207-13(4): Community Library Funding

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are no changes planned currently. We are trying to look at a system that might more equitably provide service across the Northwest Territories. One of the things that is contributing to this, is the development of the digital communications network, which we feel will help provide services in more communities. I do not think that I should say that there will be any change to what the libraries will see in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 207-13(4): Community Library Funding

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister be a little more clear? He does not think he can inform me that there will be any change, or will not be any change? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 207-13(4): Community Library Funding

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are no changes planned currently. We are looking at changes that may take place eventually, but before any changes take place, they will be discussed in this forum. Members will have a chance to comment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Erasmus.

Question 208-13(4): Liquor Licensing Board Chairmanship

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Finance. I had also written to the Minister that was looking after the Liquor Licensing Board and he had indicated to me that the Members from the west had been good board members on that board, but, of course, the public does not have the benefit of seeing the letter that I had received, so I was wondering if the Minister could confirm today that the Chairman of the Liquor Licensing Board was not terminated early, due to inadequate performance or for any impropriety? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 208-13(4): Liquor Licensing Board Chairmanship

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I want to ensure my honourable colleague, the public at large, and my good friend, the former Chairman of the Liquor Licensing Board, Mr. Williams, that was not the case. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 208-13(4): Liquor Licensing Board Chairmanship

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister had indicated that the letter indicating his term was ending was returned. I was wondering if the Minister would be kind enough to table the envelope stamped "return to sender". Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 208-13(4): Liquor Licensing Board Chairmanship

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I want to ensure my honourable colleagues that I did, in fact, see the envelope that came return to sender. That is an old Elvis Presley song. And if it is still available in the file, I will be only too happy to table it tomorrow to reassure everybody that everything is being done in accordance with the way in which I responded to the question raised earlier this week, and my response to question taken as notice. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Question 209-13(4): Appointment of Interim Commissioner

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in view of the limited time remaining for the preparation for division, and also Nunavut, could the Minister responsible for overseeing division plans please advise the House as

to the status of the appointment of the interim commissioner to Nunavut? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 209-13(4): Appointment of Interim Commissioner

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I responded earlier in the month, a recommendation is going from this government, along with the recommendation from

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the President of NTI, and it is my understanding that the appointment of an interim commissioner is imminent which in political language means, I hope, within the next two to three weeks, sooner rather than later, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 209-13(4): Appointment of Interim Commissioner

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again considering the limited timeframe, is it possible for the Minister responsible to give us a better indication as to when we can expect that this position, or that this person, when he or she will actually commence their responsibilities. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 209-13(4): Appointment of Interim Commissioner

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that it is important to point out that we give our recommendations, the same as NTI. The ultimate responsibility for the appointment lies with the federal Cabinet through the Minister of Indian Affairs, the Honourable Ron Irwin. Again, my understanding of the discussions that are underway, is that the appointment is imminent. It will have to go to federal Cabinet and hopefully, we will

get a clear indication when that appointment will take place within the next two weeks. I am optimistic that within the next two weeks. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 210-13(4): Summer Employment Program

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Chairman of the Financial Management Board in regards to summer employment programs. We spoke about this last year and the Minister was able to mention to us that any new summer student employment rate would have to be done through the collective bargaining agreement and processed with the union. I am wondering if the Minister could tell us if he has readdressed this question with the union?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister for Financial Management Board, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 210-13(4): Summer Employment Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I indicated on numerous occasions that, in fact, in our earlier negotiations with respect to the collective agreement, our position was that if we took students, not necessarily out of the agreement, but if we defined, if you want, an hourly rate or a weekly rate for students that was less than, if you want to call a mature adult, I do not know whether that is the right term, but for a permanent position, in fact our desire was to do that and try to create more jobs not less jobs. Unfortunately, there was not, for a variety of reasons, concurrence on both parties. So what I said earlier, I believe, in the House was that we are looking at a possibility in our job strategy of the potential of a student job strategy for this coming summer, along with some other areas that both Mr. Dent and myself are looking at, on this issue of student employment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 210-13(4): Summer Employment Program

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the federal government provided funding. I am not sure if that was provided last year or whether that was for this year. I am wondering if the Minister could tell us if the federal government has provided funding for summer student programs.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister for FMB, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 210-13(4): Summer Employment Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you. Mr. Dent has advised me, Mr. Speaker, that, in fact, there was a federal program last year related to student employment that partnered up directly with the private entrepreneurs and private employers, and we had no direct involvement in that initiative. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 210-13(4): Summer Employment Program

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering if the Minister could clarify for us when we can hope to see a program or a proposal for the summer student employment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you.

Further Return To Question 210-13(4): Summer Employment Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, as I indicated last week in response to a variety of questions by a variety of Members as it relates to affirmative action in our northern job strategy, we intend to bring that to committee, I am hoping as soon as I can. I am not trying to delay this. I will get it to the committee as soon as I can, seeking their council, advice and direction. Part of that job strategy, affirmative action

strategy will hope to include at the end of the day, a student job strategy. I would hope that we would be able to get some consensus on over March and April, move forward with it in May, or the late May/June budget, and implement it in July of this coming year. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 210-13(4): Summer Employment Program

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated previously, I believe that the harmonization of student rates recognizing perhaps a level in the student rate. I wondering if the Minister in the course of designing the job strategy, would readdress

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through the collective bargaining process, a rate for students with the union?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 210-13(4): Summer Employment Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could write a letter indicating that the House would like me to sit down with the UNW or my staff to sit down with the UNW to discuss this, but the fact of the matter is that we have signed the collective agreement for a two year period. I do not want to pre-judge what their response would be, but I know that it was an issue discussed in the negotiations last year, and there was no agreement at that time that we should look at changes, as my honourable colleague alludes to. I will ask my staff to phone the UNW and see if there is any interest in reopening this, but in the meantime, I want to assure my colleague that we are moving forward with a job strategy that student employment is just one small component to it, in which he will have an opportunity, as other Members will in this House through committee, to give us some direction and some input into so we can finalize it as we move into the late May/June session and get along with putting some of our kids and our neighbours kids to work. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Honourable Members who have taken the opportunity to ask questions at this time, want to ask questions. Thank you. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 211-13(4): Family Support Programs

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng. It is in regards to an issue that we have debated in the House several times in regards to the Tl'oondih Healing Centre. I would like to ask the Minister at this time in regards to the whole vision of this government to look at the whole question of family support programs, programs for families, I mentioned in earlier statements about the Tl'oondih Healing Centre, which is the only family treatment facility that has been established in the north. I would like to ask the Minister are there any plans of using that facility to implement these programs that he is looking at for childhood development, and also family support initiatives that he is considering? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 211-13(4): Family Support Programs

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have indicated to this House in the past in response to this question from the honourable Member, what we are trying to do is free up some of the financial funding from headquarters into the regions first. From there, into the community level to give the communities, whether it is at the local level or at the regional level, the means and the opportunity with having the funds to designate funding for programs whether it be at the Tl'oondih facility or other facilities that they deem fit to send their constituents, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 211-13(4): Family Support Programs

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the whole question of supporting aboriginal initiatives such as one of the Tl'ooondih Healing Society, but also community initiatives. As Minister, will you recommend to the region that they do use regional facilities when these activities are being carried out? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 211-13(4): Family Support Programs

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be hesitant to recommend anything to the communities or to the regions. I think that is the whole thrust of our empowerment initiative is to allow them the opportunity to set their own priorities. I certainly think that they would recognize firstly, the facilities and supporting institutions within their own regions before going outside, because ultimately they are accountable right at the local and regional levels, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Second supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 211-13(4): Family Support Programs

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to support and initiatives by regions and communities, this initiative has been taken by the Gwich'in people in the Mackenzie Delta in regards to the establishment of the facility, and also the support of the communities in the Delta to carry it out, and also clients from up and down the Mackenzie Valley. In regards to the cost implementation of using southern facilities versus regional facilities, will the Minister take into account that there have been motions in this House supporting that facility and the initiatives that facility has taken in regard to community healing? Will he consider taking that information forth and presenting it to the communities when they do make their decisions, that they do realize that there are facilities established for those particular things? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 211-13(4): Family Support Programs

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would think that the representatives of the Gwich'in communities, representatives from the Mackenzie Delta that make up the leadership on the boards and guide their staff in forming policies and decision making, would take it upon themselves to recognize the significance of facilities, and the importance of supporting facilities within their own service area, Mr. Speaker. Needless to say, I do not think that I would impose any conditions on them, but I certainly would make it cognizant of these issues, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

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Supplementary To Question 211-13(4): Family Support Programs

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the whole question about facilities, has the Minister of the department looked at the facilities in the north and what specialties they provide in regards to the whole question of healing, the family counselling side, the alcohol and drug, so that when people do know exactly what the client wants, there are particular facilities that can be identified? Has his department done that, to identify those particular areas of health or alcohol and drug treatment that can be taken into account by those particular communities, so that they realize that these facilities are out there. Has the Minister done that?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 211-13(4): Family Support Programs

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are aware of that. We have supported to facilitate some of the treatment

centres come together and speak about their programs and try to coordinate in the past some of their programs so that they are not directly competing with each other. I think that it is incumbent on all the treatment facilities, or healing centres throughout the Northwest Territories, along with us to make individuals aware of their services that they have to offer and how they could potentially provide assistance to individuals, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 212-13(4): Shelving of Amalgamation Plans

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in response to a question from Mr. O'Brien on Friday, the Minister for Public Works and Services indicated that while the amalgamation of departments was not proceeding, the departments are still looking at duplications and efficiencies. Will the Minister confirm that no amalgamation in any shape or form is, or will be taking place during the life of the 13th Assembly as was outlined in the motion that was passed earlier in this House. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 212-13(4): Shelving of Amalgamation Plans

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I announced on that day the fact that we had decided not to go ahead with amalgamation as we had planned. That there was no further development of amalgamation planned. However, I did say and I will say again, that I feel that it is my responsibility and every Minister's that we keep looking inwards to make sure our departments are as efficient as possible. That is what I said and that is what I meant.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 212-13(4): Shelving of Amalgamation Plans

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I am led to believe that the original plan is not going ahead, and now we are coming up with another plan. Is that the case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Honourable Minister Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 212-13(4): Shelving of Amalgamation Plans

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, there is no other plan similar to what we had originally proposed. What I am talking about is an ongoing process for government to be as efficient as possible.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 212-13(4): Shelving of Amalgamation Plans

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that leads me to believe that there is something suspicious going on here. It is not the original plan. It is another plan. Mr. Speaker, I will try to articulate this question. Is the Minister then trying to identify areas of duplication and inefficiencies in the different departments that were proposed to be amalgamated, but are not being amalgamated according to the original plan, because now he has a new plan that is not as same as the single plan? I asked a question, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The lead Minister on the amalgamation plan. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 212-13(4): Shelving of Amalgamation Plans

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, let me assure the Member before he starts going off again. Two weeks ago, the Member did create a fuel contamination crises, then a housing crisis, then a library crisis, now there is no amalgamation crisis, there is no other plan. Let me assure him again.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 212-13(4): Shelving of Amalgamation Plans

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, I mean, I heard your earlier ruling saying that the Minister should not be answering questions to provoke a debate. So I am not going to rise to his bait offered me today. Needless to say, my question was can the Minister explain to me where his department is looking to identify the duplications and the inefficiencies which he responded to Mr. O'Brien, which he did not respond to when I asked him earlier. So I am not trying to debate the man. I am not trying to argue with the man. I am just asking a sensible question for the sake of crisis. Mr. Speaker, so that was my question, where are the areas of duplication and inefficiencies within these departments that he is trying to eliminate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Arlooktoo.

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Further Return To Question 212-13(4): Shelving of Amalgamation Plans

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the two departments that I run, the Housing Corporation and the Department of Public Works, has endured some severe cuts in the past year and will do so in the following year. I cannot speak for the Minister of Transportation's plans, but I know that all the Ministers are under very clear instructions from FMBS to ensure that we keep looking inward to make sure that there is no duplication, et cetera within their department. I would be glad to go over whatever we have come up with in the next couple of weeks when our departments come up in the budget session.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Roland.

Question 213-13(4): High-Temp Heating System Implications

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question would be directed to the Minister responsible for staff housing. I would like to know when a staff housing issue is brought forward, if the negative implications, in the case of Inuvik being on the high temp system, were the negative implications looked at? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 213-13(4): High-Temp Heating System Implications

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not fully aware of this issue in terms of the negative implications of the high temp system so perhaps maybe my colleague, in a supplementary, could elaborate more so I would be in a position to give him the appropriate response, so that he would then be enlightened as to what our position was as it relates to selling staff houses in Inuvik with respect to the high-temperature system. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Perhaps, the honourable Member could clarify the question. Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 213-13(4): High-Temp Heating System Implications

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to be able to clarify for the Minister and I will just so he might enlighten me, even from the lower position he sits, height wise, anyway. Mr. Speaker, in the community of Inuvik many homes and business and government buildings are hooked to the high temp heating system, which is a very expensive system to run. Now I asked the Minister responsible for Housing Corp the other day in the House, on the possibility of rates being raised by 60 percent. Now, he informed me that it was not because of prices of oil and so on, but because of the low amount of customers still on the system. That is having a negative impact in saying that they are going to have to raise the rates. So I am asking the Minister responsible for the sale of staff housing that, when they were looking at this initiative, were the negative implications of selling these homes looked at when it comes to the high temp system in Inuvik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 213-13(4): High-Temp Heating System Implications

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now I understand the issue and I apologize to my colleague. I had forgotten that Inuvik was on this utilidor system, which is unique to Inuvik. I am not aware, to be quite frank, whether or not this issue of the costs related to this high temperature system was in fact considered in the sale of staff housing. I would have to review that with my staff and get back to my colleague. So I would hope so, but I am not up on this issue, which is out of character for me of course, but up on this issue with respect to this high temperature system. I want to assure my colleague that I will look into it this afternoon and of course and we occasionally do, deal with it early tomorrow morning. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 213-13(4): High-Temp Heating System Implications

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will agree with what I overheard with Mr. Ng's comments that the Inuvik system is not quite as good and up to date as Rankin's. Mr. Speaker, I will gladly lend a stool for the Minister to stand on so he can get up on the situation. I would like to know if he would be able to have this information fairly soon so that I can try and deal with the situation in my home community. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Honourable Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 213-13(4): High-Temp Heating System Implications

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well I do recognize that my honourable colleague does talk from lofty towers, but I will assure him that we will look into this situation and get back to him, hopefully by tomorrow morning. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 214-13(4): Central Clearing House for YK Students

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. On Friday, I had asked the Minister a question regarding a central clearing house for students. I believe that the Minister had misunderstood my question, however it was my last supplementary question. I did not have an opportunity to ask him to clarify it so maybe I could just ask it again. What I had intended to ask was, once we get this student employment strategy in place for the summer, is it possible to have a central clearing house in Yellowknife for the Yellowknife students, not for the whole of the NWT or even for the western NWT?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 214-13(4): Central Clearing House for YK Students

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HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I do apologize to my colleague on Friday for being unclear in my response. I was not quite aware of exactly what he was talking about. As I said to you earlier, we are in the early stages of trying to develop a northern job strategy along with, of course, the affirmative action strategy and in that, of course will be, once it starts to be flushed out, who the delivery agents are going to be, how we are going to connect to those required jobs. So we will take what my honourable colleague says under consideration, and he will have ample opportunity to provide us with additional direction and advice in the coming weeks and we will try to ensure that whatever is put in place is efficient and gets to the heart of the issue as quickly as possible. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 215-13(4): Current Departmental Strategic Plan

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services in regards to the major initiative he announced in this House today, which hopefully will start to deal with some of the issues that have been in this House such as our exploding population. If the Minister could indicate is there currently a strategic plan that this department or his department is using? He made reference to the fact that the new strategic plan will give us vision for the future. Is there currently one in place that we are now using and operating from? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister for Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 215-13(4): Current Departmental Strategic Plan

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is no strategic plan in that sense currently that we are operating with. The consultants will be formulating a draft strategic plan, which we intend to take to the public in extensive consultation, subsequent to their finalizing this draft plan. However, they are taking into account some of the strategic reform initiatives that the department is undergoing as part of our budgetary cycle and part of our business planning cycle that has gone forward through committees and will be going forward through this House, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 215-13(4): Current Departmental Strategic Plan

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That being the case, then I think the Minister should be commended for at long last trying to knit together the various initiatives and myriad of reforms and studies that have been done, almost to ad nauseam I would suggest. This is long overdue. Can the Minister indicate where the Inuvik and Baffin hospitals fit into this process, please? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 215-13(4): Current Departmental Strategic Plan

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Baffin hospital and the Inuvik hospital will be part of a review of all the facilities that we have out there, in conjunction to other health centres as well, other hospitals in Fort Smith, in Fort Simpson and Stanton Regional hospital, Hay River hospital of course and all the other health centres that we have. The role would be to find out how all these would fit together in the health care system for both Nunavut and for the western territory, and how there could be some possible integration as we move towards establishing two hopefully sustainable health care systems, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 215-13(4): Current Departmental Strategic Plan

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not make any comment on being compared to my colleague from Arviat, or he to me. My question to the Minister is, given the tight time frames and that fact that it would probably take a year and a half to two years to do this if it was run through the bureaucracy, will there be adequate consultation in the communities in addition to regional centres and people on health boards? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 215-13(4): Current Departmental Strategic Plan

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as I indicated the reason why we did choose people outside the department is for that exact reason of trying to fast pace this whole initiative, recognizing the seriousness

and the importance of trying to start to steer the evolution of our health care system in the right direction. Yes, in respect to the question about whether or not there will be consultation outside of the regional centres we planned. Initially, the consultants will hit on a few other communities outside of the major centres as much as possible, given the short time frame and the short mandate that we have given them in respect to trying to report back as soon as possible. But where I see there will be extensive consultation, Mr. Speaker, will be after the draft strategic plan comes back through us, through the Steering Committee where we would take it along with our partners the stakeholders, our health board partners in health care delivery. The department, with them, would take it to extensive public hearings or extensive public consultations and bring in as many of the stakeholders and as many interested groups and organizations as possible, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The time for oral question has elapsed. Item 7, written questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to please seek unanimous consent to return to recognition of visitors in the gallery?

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DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Madame Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Hay River is seeking consent to go back to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Do we have any nays? Agreed. Madame Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to recognize today in the gallery from Hay River, the Executive Director of the Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre and also the NWT representative to the National Board for Friendship Centres, Abbey Crook.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Thank you. We go back to item 7, written questions. Mr. Henry.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 9-13(4): Details Re: Reform Review Initiative

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Honourable Kelvin Ng, Minister of Health and Social Services. The Minister tabled a document on health and social service reform and my question, today is, if he would reply in written form. I would like the following: provide the terms of reference for the health and social services reform review, two, the analysis that went into the decision, deciding that these services were not available in the north, three, how much was the contract worth, and four how many other companies, including Med-Emerg International Incorporated were asked for proposals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Written question. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 10-13(4): Funding For Self-Government Negotiations

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. Can the Minister identify the level of funding his department provides to aboriginal organizations for self-government talks? Two, can the Minister also identify how much funding is currently being provided to various government departments for self-government talks? Three, will the Minister outline the reductions these areas of his department will endure 97/98.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. We will take a 15 minute break.

-- Break

ITEM 10: REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to respond to the budget address given by the Minister of Finance.

First of all, I want to congratulate the Minister and the government for their conscientious effort in balancing the books without increasing the burden on the taxpayers by raising taxes. We in the north have to contend with a number of significant disadvantages. We do not need to add to these by raising taxes and further eroding our competitive position.

We are operating in a global economy. We lose jobs to Vancouver and Calgary because we lack the expertise and support provided by those communities to the mining industry. We lose jobs to Edmonton when northerners go south to purchase retail goods. We lose jobs in tourism and arts and crafts to third world nations if we do not promote our product effectively.

The kind of infrastructure we need is people with knowledge and skills who can compete with Vancouver and Calgary, we need business infrastructure, we need technology.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is, every community in the north cannot or will not have the same level of knowledge, resources, technology, and business infrastructure.

We need a stronger centre to anchor the NWT economy. The community in the best position to be that anchor is Yellowknife.

Over the last 20 years, I would be the first to admit that government has been good to Yellowknife. It has allowed us to develop a skilled and motivated workforce, first class business services, and a transportation infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the developments northeast of Yellowknife have been accelerated because mining companies had a base like Yellowknife to operate from during the exploration and development periods.

History has proven that you cannot bring jobs to the people, people have to go where the jobs are. In fact, aboriginal people moving from the communities has been one of the primary sources for Yellowknife's growth.

Without Yellowknife's expertise and infrastructure being in place, these jobs, services and taxes may have gone to Edmonton or somewhere else. We seem to think that by cutting down Yellowknife, we think we can make things better in smaller communities, The solution is not that simple. It

requires adequate markets, a welcome environment for investors, certainty with the respect to land and a host of other factors.

Mr. Speaker, we do not live on an island; money and capital flow across borders. The jobs created in Yellowknife are taken from the south, not the north. And furthermore, jobs taken from Yellowknife tend to go south. Mr. Speaker, it is simply not

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practical for all 57 communities to have the same infrastructure that Yellowknife has.

Nor am I advocating that people come to Yellowknife. Communities have their own advantages, things such as being more family oriented, being smaller and more personal, closeness to families, traditional lifestyles.

At the same time, Yellowknife shares the problems of other communities in the NWT - unemployment, particularly among the youth, problems of alcohol and drug abuse, family poverty, et cetera. The only differences is that Yellowknife has more of it.

When MLAs come to Yellowknife, they see things that are not available in their communities. They assume that government has provided all of the services and infrastructure. In reality, it has, to a large extent, been provided by people like you and me, who have put their hands in their pockets and invested in their community. They have mortgages on their homes and business. They have put their life savings on the line to provide a level of service we all enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, in the early nineties, the government developed an economic strategy intended to balance economic growth by putting more resources into the smaller communities to develop their economies.

In this budget, we continue to pour money into level 2 and 3 communities through special initiatives such as:

- community initiatives programs (\$5 million)
- community access roads (\$750,000)
- people investments such as the building and learning strategy (\$2 million)
- The NWT Development Corporation (\$6 million)
- The NWT Business Development Fund (\$7 million)

- community futures (\$.5 million)
- community empowerment (\$3.7 million)
- community-based justice initiatives (\$1.5 million)

These few programs account for almost 20 million dollars. These expenditures are only a few of the ways we try to create jobs in the smaller communities, and most of these are temporary short term jobs. Where and what is the benefit? Governments all across Canada have realized the futility of trying to use public dollars to create jobs.

The time has come to start investing in long term, sustainable jobs that will continue to provide employment for the young and educated people coming into the labour force. Jobs provide a source of pride and self-confidence in being independent and less reliant on government.

Any prudent investor knows that the key to having a successful portfolio is balance and diversification. We have tried an investment strategy where we put all our eggs into one basket by trying to build the economies of small communities, at the same time ignoring where the real growth was coming from.

According to government statistics, job growth between 1991 and 1994 for the entire NWT was estimated at 1927 jobs. Yellowknife accounted for approximately 1000, or 52 percent of these jobs.

Mr. Speaker, this occurred at the same time that government was actively shipping out jobs to the communities through decentralization and devolution. It is also important to point out that the majority of these jobs were created by the private sector.

We have to ask ourselves the question, if the GNWT economic strategy was more balanced towards level 1 communities including Yellowknife, would we not have created even more jobs, providing more opportunities for northerners to get jobs, and more tax revenues than the present strategy?

Mr. Speaker, in the 1997/98 proposed budget, Yellowknife will take 58 percent of the job losses. In the previous year Yellowknife took 52 percent of the total government job losses. Over the two years, Yellowknife has lost 423 jobs, or one out of every four government jobs. It is also important to remember that every time we lose a direct government job we lose a further .6 of a job in the service industry, thereby compounding the effect on a community.

Not only are we losing jobs, we are losing expertise and knowledge critical to the development of our economy. Over the years we have invested heavily in the development of these people.

Jobs are not the only hits that Yellowknife has taken. I will give some examples:

- Last year, MACA cut the city of Yellowknife block funding agreement by 5 percent while the same agreement with Hay River and Fort Smith, negotiated on the same date, received no cuts at all.

- Last year, NWT homeowners lost the homeowners tax rebate, and again Yellowknife residents bore the brunt of this cut as the largest users of this program.

- The Yellowknife Housing Corporation regional office was cut. No other local offices were closed.

Mr. Speaker, the point I am trying to make is that when we are making decisions on where to spend public dollars, we need to think about the big picture.

As Wayne Gretzky said: "I skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it is at". Like Gretzky, we have to have a vision and look to where we must be in the future.

We must be concerned about the effects of our budget decisions. Our whole approach seems to be on cutting employees to balance our budget. I believe that we should be taking a different approach to budget balancing for two reasons. First, we must remember that public servants pay

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taxes, and by cutting them, we lose tax revenues, putting us further from our goal of self sufficiency. Secondly, and more importantly, it is only a short term fix.

During the period when all of our attention seems to be on cutting public servants, the social envelope has grown from 58 percent in 1995-96 to 62 percent of the total budget, and without addressing the north's high birth rate, the problem will get worse.

Furthermore, I am realistic enough to know that we cannot solve the financial problem of the north by cutting employees. We have to cut programs.

Whether we like it or not, we are in a corner, we must build for the future. The best place to start is where the economy is strongest and where you have the

best chance of succeeding and grow from there. Yellowknife is best positioned of all communities to serve as the engine for economic growth for the entire territory.

Government can help by providing for an orderly transition from a government-driven economy to a private sector economy. Government can not, nor should they try to, create enough jobs to sustain the current birth rate, which is three and one half times the national average. This is an impossible task.

One of Yellowknife's resources lies in the government employees who are being laid off. I believe that the governments should look at a bridging strategy to ensure these people do not go south, taking the knowledge of the north and its people with them.

Also, I believe we have to adopt an aggressive "in your face" promotional strategy to make Yellowknife the centre for mining to promote initiatives that will create jobs, jobs, jobs, and yes, more jobs.

I believe the time is now. Mining companies are moving out of Vancouver because of the high costs and a perceived inhospitable government policy. They are moving to Calgary. Why can not they move to Yellowknife? I believe we can attract these companies, because this is where the action is, and this is where the resources are. It is a lot easier for the mining companies to understand the rules when they live and work here in the north. We must create partnerships. Partnerships must be formed between aboriginal groups, the mining industry, labour, Government of the Northwest Territories, and the City of Yellowknife. Today, we in Yellowknife can offer modern facilities, services, and a knowledge base to mining companies operating. Those intending to operate and those who need enticement. Our success is not only critical to the development of Yellowknife, but to the entire NWT, and the lessons we learn can be applied to other communities. Let us hope, Mr. Speaker, that the lesson is a positive one. Thank you very much.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Replies to budget address. Item 11, petitions. Mr. Picco.

ITEM 11: PETITIONS

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition to save Nunavut's libraries. We, the undersigned, object to the radical change which the GNWT Department of Education, Culture, and Employment has planned for library services in Nunavut. The changes are being introduced without any community consultation and lay off notices have already been issued. Literacy, especially Inuktitut literacy, is very important to the future of Nunavut and libraries play a critical role in literacy. The Nunavut communities without public libraries is a computer connected to the Internet is a good idea, but not a substitute for a real library.

Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 724 signatures from the residents of Iqaluit, Apex, Igloolik, Pangnirtung, Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Broughton Island, Kimmirut, Cape Dorset, Hall Beach, Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, Inuvik, Yellowknife, Ontario, and the United States of America. Mr. Speaker, this is a widespread concern to say the least. Looks like a crisis to me. The petitioners request that all Members should work to preserve the public library services which currently exist and cancel the lay off notices which have been issued. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Petitions. 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. Picco.

ITEM 14: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document, Tabled Document No. 34-13(4), a letter to the mayors and councils of Nunavut communities. It has also been copied to all Nunavut MLAs, Jose Kusugak, John Amagoalik, presidents of all regional Inuit associations, the chair of the Nunavut Social Development Council, the chair of the Board of Governors of Nunavut Arctic College, the chairs of the Nunavut Divisional Boards of Education, the chairs of the Nunavut District Education Authorities, the chair of the N.W.T. Literacy Council. From the friends of Nunavut libraries campaign. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motions for first

reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Motion 09-13(4) referral of Tabled Document 20-13(4) Report of the Joint Working Group on the Business Incentive Policy. Motion 9 is on the order paper today, but since I am the mover of that motion and it is impossible for me to move it while in the Speaker's chair, it will remain in the order paper until tomorrow. Motions. Motion 10-13(4) Appointment of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. Mover of the motion, Mr. Roland. It will stay on the order paper until tomorrow. 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, Appropriation Act, 1997/98. Committee Report 02-13(4) Standing Committee on Government Operations, Report on the 1997/98 Main Estimates. Committee Report 03-13(4) Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Report on the 1997/98 Main Estimates. With Mr. Steen in the chair.

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

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I recognize the quorum and call the committee to order. We have on the order paper Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997/98; Committee Report 2-13(4), Standing Committee on Government Operations; Committee Report 3-13(4), Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Report on the 1997/98 Main Estimates. I would like some directions on how to proceed, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Does Committee agree we proceed with Bill 8? Agreed. Thank you. We left off on Bill 8. I believe we were on page 2-14, Executive Offices. At this point I would like to invite Mr. Morin to bring in witnesses if you wish. Would you indicate whether you want to bring in witnesses, Mr. Morin?

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

If the Committee agrees, the Minister may bring in witnesses. You may bring in the witnesses. Mr. Morin, could you introduce your witnesses for the record.

HON. DON MORIN:

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Welcome to the committee. We were on Page 2-14, Cabinet Secretariat and I believe we were on operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, \$5,894,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Premier had indicated that on the corporate services division there was, I think, \$53,000 in casual wages last year. Could he indicate how many people there were employed under that casual money?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Four to five on a short term basis. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

I am sorry Mr. Chairman, I did not hear. Did he say four to five or 45?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Morin, will you clarify that?

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Four to five positions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Is there anybody in the Cabinet Secretariat who has been employed on a casual basis for more than one term?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not that I am aware of.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the casual positions, do they use the employee pool or affirmative action process for employees who may have been laid off in the government when these positions are filled?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

So out of these four or five PYs, how many of them were affirmative action?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have to check into that. I do not have that detail at hand. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think the point we are trying to make here, I guess, on the \$500,000 for casuals, is that it seems that the discretion for hiring these casuals for less than three months in many cases lie with the department managers. If that is the case, the concern I think that Mr. Erasmus and some of the Members have been trying to bring forward is: what kind of policies or conditions or controls do we have in place to make sure that managers, when they are hiring casuals, do not circumvent the policies and programs that we have in place here. For example, if Melvin Flint, who is a department manager in Tough Luck Bay, wants to hire a casual over a two month period and that casual could be his best friend, he has the ability right now to go to that person and do a sole-sourced contract to hire that person. In some instances that seems to be circumventing the regulations that we have in place. I guess the question to the Premier is, is that the case and if it is the case, how can we fix it? If it is not the case, can he give us some information on what policies and guidelines are in place to stop that from occurring?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have in our department a human resource officer that watches for those types of things so managers do not hire cousins or other people from the same part of the country where they originate from. They also have a manual that they have to follow so that we do not get that. They follow the policy as well as the affirmative action policy. We also have in place audits from the personnel secretariat. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Premier just brought up a good point. He said that we have personnel people within the departments to make sure that the

manager is accountable. There has, I guess the perception here would be that the personnel person might feel intimidated by the manager, so would not probably blow the whistle, as it were, if the person was doing that. I think that was the concern. By the time the audit is completed at the end of a yearly basis, four, five, six, 10 people could have been hired on a casual basis in these individual departments and I think that is the point that Mr. Erasmus and some of the Members have been bringing forward. My questions to the Premier would be: has he looked at any way of tightening this up so that managers are not able to circumvent the policies and procedures book?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, our managers are paid to manage and we pay our managers a fairly good dollar to make the proper decisions, follow the policies and programs, all policies of this government, including the hiring practices of this government. There are clear set guidelines. We do audit them, and I would not entertain having a police force in to look over managers shoulders every couple of months. If we have to do that, then we might as well get rid of that manager sooner than later. If the manager is hiring four, five or six of his friends, then he will not be a manager in this government too much longer. Mr. Gilmour has the responsibility. All audits come to him to watch out for those types of things and if they are happening in any given department, they will be taken care of accordingly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister had indicated that there is an audit that is done. Could we get an

explanation of how this audit is done, and how often and that type of thing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The secretariat will conduct regular audits of department staffing activities. While these will be frequent at first, an annual audit should be significant after the first year of the delegation of that authority. Audits are intended to determine compliance with establishing procedures. Audit results will be provided to the deputy ministers and will contain recommendations to correct procedural deficiencies. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could we get an explanation of how the actual audit is done?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. An audit is done by going through the staffing files. All the staffing that has occurred that year to check the audit, if it complies with our Affirmative Action Policy as well as the lay offs of our employees, if they have had the opportunity to get work again with the government. It checks all of those things. The staffing reviews for 1996 have been completed for the following departments and boards, Mackenzie Regional Health Services, Workers' Compensation Board, Department of Public Works and Services, Department of Health and Social Services, Department of the Executive, FMBS, the Aurora College, Department of Transportation, and South Slave Divisional Education Council. Reviews are scheduled very shortly for the following, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the Department of Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we being told that every position that is staffed is actually looked at in terms of who is in the employment pool, to ensure that there is no one who was eligible for affirmative action status, to ensure that they were not overlooked?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My advice is that it is a very comprehensive audit and everything is looked at.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that mean that every position that was staffed on a casual basis is looked at?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know if every casual position would be looked at. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, that employment pool, is there one for every department or is there one over all pool for each community?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the community level, usually it is fairly straightforward about any jobs. They are posted right at the community level. Everybody in the community knows about it. In the bigger regions and the bigger communities, for example in Yellowknife, every department has their own. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The nine PYs in the personnel secretariat, I had asked the Premier for their work load, a question on that last day, I believe. I was wondering if the Premier has had an opportunity to gather that information yet?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

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HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of the nine positions in the Division Review Secretariat, only one position is devoted solely to Nunavut issues. This is the Executive Director of the Nunavut Office located in Iqaluit, Mr. John Quirke. It is estimated that the remainder of the staff in the Division Review Secretariat spend equal amount of their time on the east and west division issues. To verify the percentage of work on east and west issues within the Secretariat, individual logs would have to be maintained by each staff member on a daily basis over a period of time to make sure of the actual percentage of work. On the basis of amount of work undertaken by staff in the Division Secretariat, that action would be impractical and time consuming, deflecting from the time and effort required to work on substantive division issues, concerns in both the west and Nunavut. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Considering the fact that it does not seem like there is anybody doing anything for the west, I would like to know what those eight people are doing every day working on western division issues?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those staff would be working on every issues that concerns the new western territory as well as Nunavut. It ranges from infrastructure issues to liabilities of this government, human resource planning, human resource of both new territories, what is going to be needed, breaking all those issues down so we can start getting that information to Members. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was mention of Mr. Quirke in Iqaluit. Does he work alone?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He is also in that same office, sharing the office with Tommy Samatuk. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

I think the Premier said ... is Tommy Mr. Quirke's secretary?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Does Mr. Quirke have a secretary?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not quite get that other person's name. I think you said Tommy something. Could we get an explanation of what that other person does, and is this related to division?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Samatuk is the director of Corporate Affairs in Nunavut. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Director of Corporate Affairs for Nunavut, is that what he said?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is his job title, yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Who pays him?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. I presume you mean, who does he work for? Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under secretary management. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. ERASMUS:

So there are actually two people in that office that are solely dedicated to working on Nunavut issues, not just one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, Mr. Quirke is solely dedicated to work on Nunavut issues and establishing Nunavut government for April 1st, 1999. Mr. Samatuk is dedicated to work on regional Baffin issues and keeping Mr. Gilmour completely informed on issues in Baffin region, how it pertains to the Government of the Northwest Territories, to date. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is in regards to hiring individuals who may have been let go from the government, who received a compensation package and then hired back. Is there any way of evaluating that or monitoring it with this process that

you mentioned, where it is reviewed every year? Have you been able to monitor that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I can get a clarification from the Member. Just on the question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Clarification on the question, Mr. Krutko.

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MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was, has the government been able to monitor individuals who may have been paid out by this government in regards to a compensation package, and then hired back under a contract, which is double-dipping. Are you able to monitor that in regards to the yearly review that is being done? And have any of those cases been found in the last year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the Member's concern now, but that would be a question better put to Financial Management Board chairman when he appears, because it would be under his mandate to monitor that, I would think.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Premier had indicated that incremental costs are being monitored. How much of this area, Cabinet Secretariat, could be described as incremental cost?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, that question would be better put to the chairman of the Financial Management Board, as well as the chairman of the Divisional Secretariat. My understanding that FMBS is putting all those costs together so we can present a bill to the federal government and that should be happening fairly quickly, I would hope, and then I would be better informed to say how much of this cost is for incremental costs of creating Nunavut. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus, you have been asked to redirect your question to the Finance Management Board as the chairman of the Division Secretariat is also the same person. Do you have a further question, Mr. Erasmus?

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that we have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

You are quite correct, I will ring the bell. I call the committee back to order and I recognize a quorum. We were on total operations and maintenance for the Executive Offices, \$5,894,000. Agreed? Total expenditures, \$5,894,000. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question earlier in regards to double-dipping, I asked the Premier, has anybody in the Department of Cabinet Secretariat, in the review, been found to be double-dipping in regards to having been paid out through a compensation package, and then hired back on? Has anyone been hired by this Cabinet Secretariat in that particular position?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When did that review take place?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Which review?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko, you want to clarify your question again as to what review you are referring to?

MR. KRUTKO:

Has anyone been found where the review took place in the department of the Cabinet Secretariat to see if anyone has been in a position of double-dipping in regards to having been paid out through a compensation package by leaving the government then hired back on. My question was, there was supposedly a review done, when was this review done?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The two are not related. The question was, has anybody been laid off, paid a benefit, and then hired back on contract with this department, the Executive. The answer is no. That is the general knowledge of my deputy, is no. Then the other question was, when did the review take place. The audit of the department, that is done by Personnel Secretariat and that review would be of hiring practices, to make sure that the policies, the audit, were all in place and followed. Two separate things, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When did the review take place? I was not clear on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Roughly October of 1996.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a chance we can get a copy of that review just to see what the process was and exactly how it was done?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will just have to take a look to see if there is anything legal or anything that says that we can not release it. But, if we can, we will.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. We are on Executive Office, Cabinet Secretariat, total expenditures, \$5,894,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. Are we still on that Cabinet Secretariat?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Yes, we are still on that. I am surprised you are the only one that does not know. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

I am sorry, I thought we had already gone by. The Premier had indicated that not all casual hirings were actually looked at during the audit. Can we get an

indication of what percentage of the hirings are actually looked at?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could provide the Member with that information once I can get it, like the percentages of casuals that we looked at, as well as a list of how they look at every job.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Did the Premier say he was going to get a good explanation of how that process is done, including the percentage? And if it is not all of them, then can we get how long or what kind of terms that they use? I mean their terms of reference so that we know if something is over a month, it is going to be looked, or two months, or whatever, that kind of thing. Please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. I am on total expenditures, \$5,894,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Personnel Secretariat, how many former, I believe they are called staffing officers, are now employed in the human resource areas in other departments?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know that, but if he asks the same question of every department when

they come up, of where that person came from, then he would get that answer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total expenditures, \$5,894,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Premier refusing to answer the question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Erasmus, I believe the Premier said that he does not have the answer but he suggested you ask all the departments as they come before us. Would you like more clarification than that response?

MR. ERASMUS:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that is what he suggested, but is he refusing to answer the question? He wants us to have to ask the same question every time a different person comes up here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I am suggesting is that, I do not have the information in front of me, but, for example, the Department of Education or the Department of Health or the RWED, or the Department of Transportation, they would know who their staffing people are in their department, and they would know where they came from. Whether they came from the old personnel department or not, but I do not have that information in front of me. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know what he is saying, but in other words he is refusing to answer the question, but that is fine. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total expenditures, \$5,894,000, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the intergovernmental affairs, we talk about issues versus the Yukon. Do you guys deal with issues relating to jurisdictions outside of Canada, such as United States, in regards to Alaska?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Krutko, I did not get your question at all. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was in regards to intergovernmental affairs, where they talk of addressing intergovernmental issues and international issues between this government and jurisdictions outside of Canada, such as Alaska. Do they deal with issues that may effect us in the NWT in jurisdictions outside of Canada? And also, who is that person that is dealing with those issues?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do deal with some issues outside of Canada. Through our Intergovernmental Affairs Office, through Liz Snider down in Ottawa, and we usually deal through the federal government. We are, even in some cases where Mr. Arlooktoo is, on behalf of the federal government, we deal with Russia on building of buildings because we have the best expertise in the cold climate of building buildings, so we are kind of like the lead on that for Canada. On other issues we have to work with Canada and the federal government to deal with other countries. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question also was who is heading up that portfolio in regards to who do we deal with when you want to deal with international issues in that department?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you had an issue, you would come through me and I would go through Jeff to Liz. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko.

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MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to issues, as this government may know, especially with the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in which basically traditionally originate from Alaska, the Yukon, NWT, in which they do have a lot of jurisdictional ties between the aboriginal groups, in regards to the Porcupine Caribou issue, and also the issue that I raised in the house about Old Crow, I was told that this was not a GNWT issue and that they wanted to keep out of it but constituents of mine, who feel strongly that they would like to intervene or support themselves, I believe that this government should also support the people I represent in dealing with those issues, similar to the support they are giving in regards to the circumpolar community. So will I be able to have this department consider those issues and support me on them, so that we can resolve it, and also have the individual aware that there are other jurisdictions in the North that may need that support, and that they should be there dealing with the people who deal with international issues?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is very, very difficult for me to answer the Member's question, because he is asking me to form an opinion on the ruling of the Speaker and I think maybe the Speaker might throw me out of the House when he gets back or something if I question anything that he said and the Speaker ultimately makes the rules in this House, and the rules on Members' questions and I am not in a position, Mr. Chairman to question a ruling of the Speaker. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. I would like to allow Members to address their questions and do their pre-empts to the questions but the question should have some relation to the topic before us, which is government operations, Executive Office, Cabinet Secretariat. So I would ask Members to restrict their questions to the issue at hand here. I am not quite sure that was a budgetary item, last question, Mr. Krutko?

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Premier tell me how much money has been spent in regards to international issues on behalf of the Gwich'in or Inuvialuit in my constituency?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to be able to tell the Member how much has been spent, but there is no possible way that I would ever be able to answer that question. I would love to be able to answer his question, I could turn to my deputy and say "go get me that information", but I know that would cost a lot of money to even look for that type of information when all the government spent, every government department and it would be very, very difficult to come up with a number that made any sense or a number that reflected what they spent on the Gwich'in, Inuvialuit on international issues, Mr. Chairman. It is really tough. I do not know how to answer that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Perhaps rephrase your question so that Premier could answer it?

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mean we are approving a \$6 million budget item here in which basically I would like to know how much money has been spent in regards to my riding dealing with international issues, such as issues that relate to people I represent, either in the Yukon or Alaska. I would like to know exactly how much has been allocated to my constituency to deal with issues such as the Porcupine Caribou issue, such as the international trade between our jurisdictions. Has it been a dollar, has it been \$10, has it been \$1000? Does the Premier have an idea, is it? We are talking \$6 million here, I would like to know

what percentage of that has been allocated in my region to deal with international issues?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The total budget is approximately \$10 million in my department, there are approximately 67,000 people in the Northwest Territories. There are approximately 2,000 people in the Members riding, so this is a quick adding, approximately \$124,000 or \$12,400. I have to figure it out. That is the closest I can come with the information in front of me. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Premier tell me exactly what the \$24,000 was spent on?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They would have bought some paper for sure because government deals with paper and possibly wages and benefits and....thank you Mr. Chairman. Travel and transportation for the total budget of intergovernmental affairs was \$45,000, for materials and supplies \$10,000, purchases serviced \$20,000, contract services \$73,000, fees and payments \$5,000, other expenses \$1,000, minor furniture and equipment \$2,000 for a total of \$156,000 O and M. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total expenditures, Cabinet Secretariat, \$5,894,00. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not clear exactly how much the amount was. Did he say \$73,000 for the whole department or was that just the travel and O and M budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Intergovernmental Affairs, we are back on that one, permanent salaries was \$282,000, travel and transportation was \$45,000, materials and supplies was \$10,000, the purchased services was \$20,000, contracts services was \$73,000, fees and payments \$5,000, other expenses were \$1,000, minor furniture and equipment were \$2,000 for a total O and M of \$156,000. Sorry other O and M \$156,000. Total O and M \$438,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko could you give us an indication where you are leading to with this question? What is the point?

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think it comes down to a question of exactly how many aboriginal

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groups do we have, which they traditionally originate from an international jurisdiction such as United States, Alaska, and the NWT versus other aboriginal jurisdictions which may lead between the southern provinces into the north such as the Chippewa, Treaty 8 and the rest of that organization. Circumpolar commission members, I believe, receive funds from this government? So my question is in regards to the international problems that we see, that the aboriginal organizations that I represent such as the Inuvialuit and the Gwich'in, who originate from Alaska into the NWT, the amount of funds that the communities that I have represented, do not seem to be getting the adequate support and resources that they need to deal with those issues. I would like to know, how much of those dollars has been spent to deal with international issues which affects my constituents? That is the point I am trying to get at. And if I can ask the question, Mr. Chairman, first it was \$73,000, consultants, what was that for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Thank you for the clarification to the question. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Previously that budget was under the control of Aboriginal Affairs so it has been transferred over to us now, Intergovernmental Affairs. So we have it as a holding figure for next year but for the past year, whatever they spent, then I can get that information to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there any way that I could be assured by the Premier that there will be someone there who would take account of the issues that I have stated in regards to concerns that we have especially dealing with the Porcupine caribou issue which is an international issue. and the 10-02 lands in Alaska, where we, especially from the Gwich'in perspective is a high priority item, but we need the support of this government in order to accomplish that. So I would like commitment from the Premier that he will ensure that there are people within that portfolio to assist us in those issues. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can get all the information for them on that issue, the Porcupine Caribou herd, as soon as we get the request of what exactly they need. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total expenditures, \$5,894,000, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Division Review Secretariat, have they produced any reports on (inaudible) past year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Erasmus, I did not get your whole question. They moved the Speaker before you were finished talking, go ahead with your question again.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering, the people in the Division Review Secretariat, how many reports have they finished on Nunavut issues this year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They did co-ordinate the response for Footprints 2 for our government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Did they do similar work for the west?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They worked closely with Aboriginal Affairs on western issues. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did they actually do any reports, or anything concrete that we can look at, like this document here for instance, and say this is something that came out of the Division Secretariat regarding division in the west?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not that I know of.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I am sorry, I did not get your answer.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not that I know of. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. But they spend half their time working on western issues, I understand that. How many people in the total Cabinet Secretariat, other than in personnel, are aboriginal people?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We dropped, when we gave up our GLOs to the communities, we dropped from 42 percent to 23 percent. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

It is pretty difficult to envision. How many total are we talking about? What kind of numbers is that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Erasmus, you are asking what the percentage represents positions?

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, the Premier indicated the percentage, I was asking for numbers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fourteen.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

There are only 14 people in that whole Secretariat, other than personnel?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

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HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That includes everything under Executive Offices, including personnel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. I am getting mixed up here. The original question was, what percentage was aboriginal? Now I understand you to say 13 positions?

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Total number of aboriginal employees in Executive Office is 14.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many of those are in management?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Twenty-five percent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are excluding Personnel Secretariat, is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it includes personnel. I do not have the numbers without them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I only have the numbers for the Executive, period. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it possible that nine of those people that are counted as aboriginal could all be in the Personnel Secretariat?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total expenditures, \$5,894,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 215, Public Utilities Board. Operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, \$482,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total expenditures, \$482,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. We are on Executive Offices, page 216, detail of grants and contributions. Grants, total grants, \$90,000, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

This is, I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, which detail are we under?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Erasmus, we are on page 216, grants, total grants, \$90,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under women's initiatives grants, I would just like to ask the Premier if this work that is being done by these non-profit organizations at the community level is in keeping with addressing our social problems, and the pressure that we have all acknowledged that is putting on this government's social programs budget. Would it be his understanding that is what these grants to non-profit organizations address? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The grants are given to, or funding is providing to non-profit organizations for special projects that support the culture, economic, political, and social participation of women in society. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total grants, \$90,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have talked about the need for community empowerment in finding community answers to community problems, and I

would suggest, and perhaps the Premier could indicate if the department would concur with this, these grants to these organizations do give and afford that opportunity to people at the community level, to address issues in their community. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just one small part of what the government does for community wellness, as well as what we are going to do with your community empowerment. There are monies as well as social service budgets, health budgets, education budgets, there is money in MACA's budget for community empowerment. We are implementing a modest grant cut back to this line item, women's initiative grants. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In view of the fact that women are generally quite disproportionately under represented in positions of political leadership, positions of community leadership and in senior management positions of this government, would the Premier concur that it is extremely important that we keep avenues for women to participate as available as possible. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is how come we proposed a modest cut to this line item. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if we could have the department's and the Minister's opinion as to the value for expenditure that is received

from these programs, which I understand are highly supplemented by volunteer hours as well as by paid staff members. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not to give my opinion, however, you requested my opinion as Minister. As a Premier, if there is a specific question, I will answer that, but not give an opinion. But I believe that if I felt that the women's initiative grants were not doing a good job, this amount of money, I would not have presented it back in the budget, I would have cut it at all. I believe that the women's organizations are doing a good job, and that is how come we came forward with a modest cut.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Total grants, \$90,000. I have Mr. Krutko. (inaudible) \$80,000, I have Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is down from \$100,000 down to \$90,000 for this year. Can the Minister advise me of the groups that receive this funding? And also, does any of it go to the Native Women's Association or the Status of Women Council? I note that they are also getting cut later on, or proposed. Does any of this money under the women's initiatives grant go to either of these two organizations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This money here is not Native Women's Association or the Status of Women, it is for other women's groups. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was, does any of this funding go to the Native Women's Association or the Status of Women Council? I think, maybe the

Minister could confirm, that none of this money last year went to those two groups. Again, I will ask the other question, what groups last year? Just to give me an idea of what organizations we are talking about, and more of what type of work they do. It is very skimpy, the statement of what they do. If the Minister could give us a little more information in that regard. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding that the Native Women's Association and the Status of Women Council do not get any part of this \$90,000, it is for other women initiative grants. As far as who received the money last year, I will provide to the Members a complete list tomorrow. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

I thank the Minister for that commitment to provide that information, as his organization has received it. Can the Minister elaborate on the types of activities that these organizations get involved in? Does he have any names of them that received money last year and what type of, if he can elaborate on a brief description that is here, are under women's initiative grants?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have that information readily available for what they have done with the money previously, or how they spend it and who gets it, but I will provide that to the Members tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. I have Total Grants, \$90,000, and I have Mr. Erasmus and Mr. Picco yet. Thank you.

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Chairman, I just want to recap some comments on the women's programs in general here, because we are looking at the details on grants and contributions. Last week, Mr. Chairman, when I tabled the Standing Committee on Infrastructure's Report on the 97/98 Main Estimates, the report provided the Premier, as the Minister responsible, not one, not two, but three options, any of which could have eased the financial burden the government is planning to place on these organizations.

Although the Committee raised a concern about reducing funding to women's groups, a concern that has now been confirmed by the public, all the efforts were in vain. The government, Mr. Chairman, chose not to accept the proposed options, and to continue down the path of a 10 percent cut. Mr. Chairman, this could lead to decreased services and the shelving of numerous issues concerning women, and I would urge the Premier to reconsider the plan to reduce the funding, and would ask that they revisit the options put forward by the Standing Committee. So my question to the Premier, who is responsible for the grants and contributions for the women's organizations in the Northwest Territories, will he reconsider the funding cut of 10 percent and review the three options presented to him by the Infrastructure Committee? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Picco, we can only address the Grants at this point. We are on Total Grants, \$19,000. Contribution follows. Mr. Picco?

MR. PICCO:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am quite aware of that, but I was just making a point because this is a separate area in the Department of the Executive, so I am allowed to comment on this section. Not just the grant section, but on the section of the details and grants for the women's offices, which includes all women's areas.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Picco, you can only address the figure that is in front of you. If you want to address the whole issue again, we are going to have to wait until we go to the total of the pot or total grants and contributions. At that point in time you may wish to, but at this point in time we can only address Total Grants \$90,000. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your dutiful concern on this issue, and I will defer to the next Member in line.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. We are on Total Grants \$90,000. Agreed? Contributions? Total contributions \$439,000. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Committee Motion 6-13(4): To Reconsider the Decision to Reduce Funding to the Status of Women Council

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a motion. I move that this committee strongly recommend that the government reconsider its decision to reduce funding to the NWT Status of Women Council and further, that the government consider amending Bill 8, Appropriation Acts 1997/98 by adding \$31 thousand to the 97/98, I know, contribution identified for the Status of Women Council. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The motion is in order. To the motion. Has everybody got a copy of the motion? To the motion. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so that all Members are aware and there has been talk of reducing the Native Women's Association and Status of Women by 10 percent. Just so Members are aware of what our government does with these organizations and how we work closely together with them, and what we actually do for them.

As far as the Native Women's Association goes, there is a budget for them, as well as in-kind contributions of \$102,258, and the Status of Women Council, we have in-kind contributions for them of \$61,016. In reality what you look at when we have asked people to take a reduction in this government, it has been right around 6.25 percent. That does not count, and this is what they have told me, as well as the free computers and the other stuff that we have given them, like furniture as well. The 10 percent reduction in contribution equals really to 6.1 percent reduction overall funding for the Native Women's Association

and 8.3 percent reduction for the Status of Women Council.

Also, Mr. Chairman, I take the recommendations of the committees I appear before seriously, and we looked at the issue of how we could keep these grants up like they had suggested, and reduce some staff, because that is ultimately what we should be looking at. Government is trying to reduce staff, reduce duplication and make government more effective so we have more program dollars for people. We attempted to do that in other issues too, and Members raised quite a bit of concern about cutting PYs and cutting government employees. A lot of Members raised that concern. Part of their recommendation from that Committee as well, Mr. Chairman, was to cut the only position that we have affiliated with the staff. But we could not do that because we need an independent advice to our Minister and we need that not only in Northwest Territories issues but national issues and international issues as well.

In reality, Mr. Chairman, we are not asking Native Women's Association and the Status of Women to take an unrealistic cut here. It is a very small amount and in line with the rest of what government has done. Like I said before, we try to be fair and we have been fair and that is how come I can take forward with this proposed cut to these two organizations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. In all fairness I should have let Mrs. Groenewegen speak to her motion before anybody else. After Mrs. Groenewegen, I have Mr. Krutko, Mr. Picco and Mr. O'Brien. Mrs. Groenewegen, would you like to speak to your motion?

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the fact that needs to be taken into consideration is that women's organizations are already severely under-funded for the mandate that they carry and the work that they are expected to do. The Status of Women Council in particular is required by territorial legislation to provide research and public information to women in community organizations on all issues pertaining to women. And although the Premier has suggested that they do receive and has provided the amounts of in-kind support that they receive in addition to their actual grants, the fact is that two years ago they

received a cutback of \$10 thousand and they were obligated to expend an additional \$11 thousand to start covering all their own faxing and photocopying services and charges.

Mr. Chairman, those are the remarks I would like to make. I would like to underline the fact that these women do a tremendous amount of work, very important work and are already severely underfunded, before you take the 10 percent reduction into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the motion, I think we also have to take into light that there are other organizations out there, especially the aboriginal organizations that have been cut, some cases 100 percent of their funding. I think we do have to keep in mind that they do similar work as the Status of Women's Council, in regards to the Native Women's Association, Metis Nation. We have to realize that some of these groups are delivering programs and services on behalf of the people they represent, and I think, in order to be fair to the other organizations, we should also reinstate their funding to the original amount. If it is okay with the mover of the motion, I would like to add that the \$60 thousand for the Metis Nation also be reinstated in this motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the motion. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I would just like to refresh the Premier on the options that were presented. What we said basically was this, while the work of the special advisor on women's issues is important, the Members consider the work done by the Status of Women Council, the Natives Women's Association and the other to be even more important to the north and northerners. During the renewal of the draft business plans in October, the Committee did suggest another option for this reduction in funding.

The Committee suggested cutting the grants by only 5 percent instead of 10 percent. We did not say get rid of the special advisor on women's issues which is

attached to the Minister. What we did say was, cut the grant by 5 percent instead of 10 percent and make up the difference by reducing the position of special advisor, which is a position at the Cabinet, to a half-time position. However, the Premier chose not to accept that recommendation, so we went with two other

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recommendations, two more options for the Premier. We said that Committee members would rather see the work not being cut out of these important organizations and be hindered by the 10 percent cut so the Standing Committee therefore offered two more suggestions and they were: number 1, leaving the grants unchanged, cancelling the 10 percent cut and eliminate the position of the special advisor entirely. The Minister responsible for the Status of Women could then be advised directly, Mr. Chairman, directly by the boards and the executive directors of the Women's Association. The second option we gave the Premier was that the special advisor would work with the Status of Women Council. The special advisor could then continue to advise the Premier and the Minister, but her services could also assist the Council sufficiently to ease the effects of the 10 percent cut in grant funding. None of those options were accepted, and therefore, as Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee, I support the motion of Member Groenewegen, who is a Member of that committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. To the motion, Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I spoke earlier on this issue in my Member's statement. The only thing that I would like to add at this point is that I agree with the Premier, it is a small amount, \$31,000 out of a billion dollar budget. As a result, I will be supporting the motion and also will be requesting a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. For the committee's information, Mr. Krutko was suggesting an amendment to the motion. The ruling here is that you can not amend the motion. If he wants to move an amendment, you have move an amendment. Just for clarification, Mr. Krutko, she can not amend her

motion, you would have to make a motion to amend it, or you can put forward a motion of your own, later. But, keep in mind that we would have to take a break and translate this. Now I have Mr. Erasmus to the motion.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have to speak in favour of this motion. I feel that the work that is done by the women organizations is very important, and I also feel that the native women's funding should not be cut, as well. The women's groups work in the healing area and they work in all areas. For instance the native women do not just work with the Dene or the Metis or the Inuit, they cover all native groups or peoples. Similarly, the Status of Women works for all women, and as I said before, those groups are not just working to further women's issues, they are working in healing, and it is very, very essential that communities and families do get healthy. It is not much good to offer all kinds of education programs and economic programs and jobs if the people are not healthy mentally.

Because if they are not mentally healthy then they can not take proper advantage of those millions of dollars that we are spending on the education programs and jobs, they can not take proper advantage of those if they are not healthy. We are talking together with the two women's groups, I believe it is something like \$52,000, or \$48,000, to this government that is not even a drop in the bucket, but to those two organizations, it could mean the difference between one staff person that has to be let go out of a very small labour force that they have, very small personnel group. I have to speak in favour of this motion and I would have liked to put both the Native Women and the Status of Women in the same motion, but I am not sure how to go about this. I would like to move an amendment to the motion. The amendment would be to include the Native Women's Association at the end of the first paragraph, so that it is the Status of Women Council and the Native Women's Association, and then in the second part, amending it to include the amount for the native women as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Erasmus, your motion has to be in writing and we will have to have it translated, so we are going to have to take a break here while you put your motion in writing and have it translated. Committee will take a 10 minute recess.

-- Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I recognize a quorum and call the committee back to order. Mr. Erasmus, you have an amendment to the motion. Would you like to read it out?

Committee Motion 7-13(4): Amend Committee Motion 6-13(4) to Add Reference to the Native Women's Association

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the motion be amended by adding the following in the first paragraph after the Status of Women Council: and the Native Women's Association. And further, by adding after Status of Women Council in the second paragraph, the following: and by adding \$17,000 to the 1997/98 contribution now identified for the Native Women's Association.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Your amendment to the motion is in order. To the amendment. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At what point would I request a recorded vote on this, as the initial mover of the motion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The amendment has to be dealt with first. To the amendment, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, I move that we extend sitting until we deal with this matter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. The motion is in order and it is not debatable. All those in favour of extending. Opposed. The motion is carried. Back to the amendment to the motion. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I had indicated before, I feel that the work done by both women's groups is

very important. The work they do, a lot of it is in the healing area and we do need healthy families and healthy communities so they can take proper advantage of the rest of the government programs that we put on. I could not agree with the recommendation that the committee had put forward on cutting a staff person that works in this area, but I do not wish to see these two women's groups funding cut. This is why I would like to have them both dealt with at the same time, rather than dealing with them separately. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Question is being called. All those in favour of the amendment. All those opposed. Abstained. No abstentions. Motion carried. To the original motion. I am advised to say the motion is amended. To the motion, as amended. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it was extremely important that the motion that was put forward be amended to include, as Mr. Erasmus has raised, the issue of the funding to the Native Women's Association. On that issue, I think it is important to note that in traditional cultures, women were valued as equal partners in family and community life and they were listened to for their input, and their input was respected because they were the heart of the community. I believe that we would be remiss as a government if we ignore the knowledge and the motivation that women have to do the work on the community wellness at the community level. We are short of resources and it would be financially to our detriment not to recognize this valuable contribution and to leave the funding as it is. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion as amended. To the motion as amended. Question is being called. Recorded vote. All those in favour please rise.

DEPUTY CLERK (Mr. Schauerte):

Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Mr. Barnabas, Mr. Picco, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Erasmus, and Mr. Henry.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

All those opposed rise.

DEPUTY CLERK (Mr. Schauerte):

Mr. Roland, Mr. Miltenberger.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

All those abstained.

DEPUTY CLERK (Mr. Schauerte):

Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Ng, Mr. Todd, Mr. Arlooktoo, and Mr. Dent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. I will read the results. For the motion, ten; against the motion, two; abstentions, seven. The motion is carried.

-- Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Before we proceed, I would like to remind Members that any motions or amendments to motions that they intend to make, have to be provided to the chair in writing. It would assist with the business of the committee of the whole if Members who intend to make motions would consult with one of the Clerks, who are available to assist with the preparation, translations of motions. Agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Ootes. Since we have now dealt with the issue, I will now rise and report progress. I thank the witnesses for attending.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 21: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 8 and would like to report progress with two motions being adopted.

Mr. Speaker I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concluded.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Arlooktoo. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Item 22, third reading of bills. Item 23, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 23: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, the meeting of the Constitutional Working Group at 6:15 this evening in the Caucus room. There will be a meeting of the Nunavut Caucus this evening at 6:15 in Committee room A. Meetings tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. of the full Caucus and at 10:30 of the Ordinary Members' Caucus.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 4, 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 of the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions 9 and 10
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 and 3

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

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22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned to 1:30, Tuesday, February 4, 1997.

-- ADJOURNMENT