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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

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

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 39-13(4): Minister Absent From the House

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi will be absent from the House for the rest of the week to attend the Aboriginal Youth Conference and the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards in Calgary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 40-13(4): Fort McPherson Residual Heat

HON. CHARLES DENT:

I am pleased to provide this Assembly with an update on the district heating system project in Fort McPherson. Last year, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation and the Gwich'in Development Corporation established a company called AADRII

Limited, whose objective was to develop a system to capture residual heat from the diesel generators and sell it to customers at competitive rates.

I am pleased to announce that late last week the first heat was delivered to the Fort McPherson Tent and Canvas Shop, the municipal water treatment plant and the new Chief Julius School. Over the next few months, other customers such as the Hamlet of Fort McPherson and the swimming pool will be coming on line.

Recently, there has been discussion in this House about innovative ways to create work and help the economy. I believe this project is an excellent example of a partnership that has created new opportunities and new revenue from what was, until last week, a wasted resource.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 41-13(4): Provincial/Territorial Council on Social Policy Renewal

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his budget address last week, the Minister of Finance spoke of the urgent need to reform programs and services in the social envelope. As Mr. Todd noted, a rapidly increasing population is placing excessive demands on social envelope departments, threatening long term sustainability of these programs in the NWT.

We are not alone in our need for social policy reform. Recently implemented changes to social policy funding are having an impact across the country. Faced with declining federal funding and increasing demand, provinces and territories across Canada are feeling the need to reform their social programs. To help provide a coordinated response to increased pressures provincial and territorial Premiers established the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Council on Social Policy Renewal.

Last week, I was in Toronto to attend a meeting of this Council and discuss the current status of social policy reform efforts across Canada. We had a productive meeting. Among other topics, we discussed ongoing work on the following initiatives: a national child benefit; integrated income support for persons with disabilities; a national children's agenda; and options

for working together with the federal government to find solutions to the challenges facing Canada's health system.

Mr. Speaker, our progress on a National Child Benefit is a significant achievement. Federal, provincial and territorial governments have all agreed to proceed with work on a child benefit that will aim to reduce child poverty across the country. The new benefit will reduce overlap and duplication in support to children and will work to reduce the number of families relying on income support programs. It will also give us greater flexibility to address children's needs. Money now used to provide income support to families with children will be freed

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up for use in other programs aimed at children, such as early intervention.

GNWT officials are analyzing the impact of implementing the National Child Benefit in the NWT. Details of the National Child Benefit still have to be worked out, but it is clear that to be effective it will require a significant and permanent incremental investment from the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, the Council also discussed the provincial/territorial report from health Ministers on a renewed vision for Canada's health system. Health Ministers released the vision document on January 29. I have copies of the document for Members who are interested.

In view of decreasing federal investments in Canada's health system, provincial and territorial Ministers of health have put forward a vision of a reformed national health system which will meet the needs of Canadians well into the next century. There are changes ahead for the Northwest Territories and while some of the changes may seem difficult and be unpopular, change now will guarantee the future survival of our social programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement on Prairie Creek Development Cooperation Agreement

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise before the House to applaud the signing of the significant cooperative agreement in my constituency of Nahendeh. On Monday, February 3, the Nahanni Butte Dene Band and the San Andreas Resource Corporation successfully completed negotiations with respect to the Prairie Creek Development Corporation Agreement. The agreement was negotiated by partners without direct government intervention.

Prairie Creek, formally known as the Cadillac Mine, is a high potential lead, zinc, and silver mining prospect located in a remote site 170 kilometres north of the Liard Highway. There is considerable infrastructure on site and annual exploration efforts have increased ore reserves to levels where the event of advancing the project to a feasibility stage.

Nahanni Butte's objective is to achieve economic self-sufficiency by developing natural resources within its traditionally territory in accordance with sound environmental practices. The company's objective is to bring the project into production in the most cost effective and environmentally responsible manner. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that the recent signed agreement is the vehicle which will facilitate the partners in reaching the complimentary objectives.

As the project proceeds, the First Nation's people of Nahanni Butte will share in profits, management contracts, jobs and training opportunities. As we all know residents across the Deh Cho region and the N.W.T. will benefit from responsible new development initiatives such as the Prairie Creek Project.

I invite the Members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in congratulating the Nahanni Butte Dene Band and the San Andreas Resource for signing this milestone development agreement. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Members' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Member's Statement on Decorum and Behaviour During Question Period

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I listen with interest to the comments made yesterday by the Member for Iqaluit on decorum and behaviour during question period. It is important to reflect from time to time on our duties to represent our constituents, and to carry out the business of government. Maybe I am old fashioned, Mr. Speaker, but I have made it my job to base decisions and opinions on the best facts that I could obtain, not on innuendo.

Perhaps Mr. Picco and I should compare whose skin is thicker now. The Member has been described by others recently as a lord of exaggeration, the king of crisis and the master of disaster.

I will have you know that I do not necessarily agree with these descriptions. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of this House, I am committed in working cooperatively with all my colleagues to do the job we are elected for. If a Member seeks information from me, I will continue to provide the facts. In this way I intend to avoid any future perceptions of crisis or exaggeration on my part, or anyone else. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

I was not too sure whether or not Mr. Arlooktoo was speaking as a Minister or as a Member, or maybe he is speaking on behalf of all the Ministers or all the Members, but I just thought I would bring that point up. Members' statements, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement on Government Subsidies to Seniors

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Previously in this House, I have raised the issue of subsidies within the government, the number of subsidies there are, where they are, and the apparent clear understanding of where they are all located, and the need for coordination. Mr. Speaker, this issue has become focused again on the issue of subsidies to seniors. This matter has been brought to the Social Programs Committee and the departments within the envelope as well

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have agreed to look at the issue. Mr. Speaker, information shows that there are 21 different

subsidies to seniors, scattered across eight different departments, boards or agencies. I think it makes it very clear that there is a need for a type of coordination of this kind of service that we provide and how the subsidies are delivered.

Mr. Speaker, the Seniors Society for the Northwest Territories, as well is very concerned, and have suggested that these be brought under one roof. It is something that I support as well. I would encourage the government, and will be asking the lead Minister questions in this regard in question period, about how we can approach this to, in fact, deliver on this critical area or segment of our society that is highly respected and needs this kind of service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement on Rae-Edzo Water and Sewer System

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you may recall, previously I had commented on the Department of MACA and the Hamlet of Rae-Edzo coming to agreement regarding the take over of the water and sewer system. This is going to take place possibly April 1, 1997. However, we do have concerns. These talks have been in the process for approximately 10 years and over the period, MACA and Public Works and Services have investigated the system of both Rae and Edzo many times, all coming to the same conclusion, that both systems need repairs. Over the same period, these departments have hired two different consultant groups that each have produced reports showing there are deficiencies in the system and what suggested solutions could be made, and all associated costs.

What we have in Edzo is the system that was installed when the community was built back in the late 60s and the early 70s. This system is all underground and is now getting close to the end of its lifespan. The system in Rae is a combination of underground pipe and truck delivery. This system is also getting fairly old and needs major repairs annually. The problem that keeps coming back, is what is classified O and M versus what is capital.

According to the hamlet water and sewer policy, all O and M charges are billed to Public Works and Services to be recovered from the hamlet. This has been the practice since 1987 when this policy came into effect. In most cases, the NWT is not a problem in those communities where lines are in surplus from their sewage and water sections. However, in Rae-Edzo due to the high cost of repairs associated with the system, all charges go back to the hamlet.

The hamlet is not getting ahead of the game. The system needs some major repairs and will cost thousands of dollars. It has now been identified that the Rae-Edzo system is too small to adequately supply the growing community. To date, all expenditures have been through O and M, which, of course, adds more financial burden to the hamlet. There is still no move by the department to have these major repairs recognized as capital. What must be done to convince this department that these are capital requirements, not O and M. All work is presently being done as emergency solutions to the problem, not to plan to see what areas need work, and those have as capital lines to ensure it is not too overwhelming a burden to the hamlet, as it is at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement on Contracting Services from the Private Sector

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the whole idea of privatization and service delivery in the community by the hamlet councils, right now there is no real regulation in place with regards to allowing the hamlet councils to contract out. Also, to the communities receiving O and M funds with regards to equipment rentals, and other items such as that. In the case of Fort McPherson and Aklavik, there are contractors available in those communities, yet we are still buying capital items such as graders, at a time when the private sector is also struggling to maintain their businesses.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that this government should seriously look at the whole idea of O and M, capital planning, and allocate it to communities to carry out

the responsibility with the private sector, so that they can also sustain the economic funding for both people, not just the government, but also the private sector. So with that Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister at the appropriate time about this idea. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement on Employee Morale in the Civil Service

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the unfortunate and embarrassing financial situation that we find this government in, it has been necessary to take some drastic, cost cutting measures. These measures have effected all employees of this government and many others.

Mr. Speaker, as most Members know, I have not been one of the staunch supporters or defenders of all of these reductions. However, Mr. Speaker, I do agree that cuts were required in certain areas and in some cases we had absolutely no choice.

Mr. Speaker, having said that, I feel that far too often, with all the concentration on the reductions, we lose sight of the human factor. Mr. Speaker, far too often we forget about the excellent work that our teachers, nurses, and all of the governments workers carry out in the midst of this turmoil and uncertainty.

Mr. Speaker, we would have to be without understanding not to realize that employee morale is at its lowest point. Every effort must be made to assure employees as to where they stand. To do otherwise would be cynical and irresponsible.

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Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that our government employees are placed in this desolate situation through no fault of their own. If it were solely up to myself, Mr. Speaker, there would be no further cuts and our deserving employees could breath easier and enjoy life with their families. Mr. Speaker, hats off to all our government employees for all their excellent work. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement on Impact of Cuts to the Capital Budget

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I received a press release yesterday from the NWT Construction Association. The release regards the impact of the cuts to the capital budget, and I want to share some of the Association's concerns with the House. Our fiscal plans call for a reduction of \$15 million to the capital spending this year. According to the Construction Association, that represents a 35 to 40 percent drop over previous years. The association further says, a cut of this magnitude will translate into the loss of 900 direct jobs. Mr. Speaker, our fiscal policies are very tough on the construction industry. Individual companies have to become razor sharp competitors if they are to survive. Even with the prospect of contracts from the construction of diamond, I am not convinced that every construction company will make it through this period of transition.

There is not much we can do to provide added support in the coming years, but there are things we can do to make sure that construction businesses are treated properly. In recent days, I have been asking questions and making statements on the government's process for awarding contracts. I have questioned the fairness of the system and the willingness of officials to help companies develop the best bids possible. Mr. Speaker, our policies and procedures on the contract system needs to be looked at. Especially the contract management proposal system which, according to some of my constituents, is less than fair, open, and clear. It is absolutely essential that we clean up these problems today. We can not help the construction industry by restoring old levels of capital spending, but we can make sure our contract processes give every company a fair shot at competing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement on Volunteers

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, volunteers take in all sizes and shapes in all walks of life. In 1987, the Secretary of State carried a national survey

on volunteering and giving. The survey showed that 27 percent of Canadians are involved in formal volunteering, and almost half contribute to their neighbourhood, their family, or their community by volunteering in informal ways. While no national study has been carried out since that time, a 1995 study by Gol-Farb and Associates put the percentage of Canadians who volunteer at 42 percent. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to speak about some of the efforts of our volunteers and volunteer organizations.

Volunteers build stronger communities. They help out with minor hockey, softball, and other organized sports. They are found in service clubs like Rotary, Elks, Lions Club, the Legion, boy scouts, air cadets, and girl scouts, to name a few. They participate by serving on boards like day care, community action, wellness and inter-agency groups.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Iqaluit is blessed with many such dedicated individuals. Too many to mention by name. These are the people who make a community better for all who live there. This year, volunteer Canada is sending out a special invitation to elected officials all over Canada to help celebrate National Volunteer Week through an initiative called, the elected hour of service. They are asking every federal, provincial, and territorial elected representative to pledge one hour of volunteer work during National Volunteer Week.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to challenge my colleagues in this House to take up this offer and to volunteer during the week of April 13th to 19th. Mr. Speaker, I plan to volunteer each day during Volunteer Week and ask the various groups in Iqaluit to contact me immediately for any work or service I can perform on their behalf.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. Arlooktoo's earlier statement and I would be happy to help volunteer at his House too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement on Public Perception of Legislative Assembly Proceedings

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise a question, or give my comments on what I feel takes part in this House. Mr. Speaker, I know a lot of people who watch from other communities and from the city of Yellowknife, this program being broadcast. They see only a portion of what happens here. They do not see the other things that happen within our other meetings, committee meetings, practices, or in our offices. What they do see is what is said here in the House. Mr. Speaker, I think, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we have to be very careful with what we say in this House and how we present it, because many people out there see only this, only what is being said at the time we are here. They take that to be the truth.

Mr. Speaker, I think a lot of things we say around here tend to be in colourful prose and using different words to try and explain something, but I raise on the point of concern that we need to, as Members, be careful with what we say here and try and represent what we are saying in the most truthful way there is. There has been many a time when people have listened to what has happened in this House and other meetings that are put out, and when you only hear a portion of what is being said, as opposed to exactly what is happening.

I think we have to be careful. I think we need to point out at certain times that we need to be accurate with what we are saying, and I know I have said things that I have heard in committee meetings that somebody said something else to me. But I grow concerned that, from time to time, we say a few things at this level, whether inadvertently or not, but can mislead the public in general.

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Mr. Speaker, I have heard in other meetings about how things are said can make other people react. I think we are well aware of this. We have been in here a year and I would say that, as Members, we need to watch the way we present ourselves so that we are providing the accurate information to those people we represent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 108-13(4): Revenue From the Sale of Alcohol

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a rather lengthy return to oral questions, so I hope my colleagues will bear with me. It was asked by Mr. Roland on January 23rd, with respect to alcohol and drug prevention and I apologize for the length of it.

In addition to this \$15 million in appropriate funds, the GNWT receives another \$579,500 through an agreement with the federal government to deliver programs directly related to alcohol and drugs. I emphasize, however, that this \$15 million only represents the money dedicated to direct program delivery in the area of prevention and treatment. The amount actually spent by this government on treatment and prevention of programs related to alcohol abuse is much greater.

We all know the enormous toll that alcohol abuse takes on our communities and the direct links that exist between alcohol and many of the social programs that we, as a government and the legislature, are concerned about.

In addition to the direct program delivery costs, the Department of Health and Social Services also budgets approximately \$19 million for programs which indirectly support alcohol treatment prevention and related issues. A large part of the \$10 million budget for children's group homes plus the care programs and placement programs for special needs children, will go to assist children from homes effected by alcohol abuse, including those with fetal alcohol syndrome or effect. Another \$8 million allocated to community wellness initiatives, family violence programs, and family counselling, will also contribute to assisting families, communities, and individuals, to deal with the impacts of alcohol abuse.

The direct spending by this government on alcohol abuse prevention and treatment programs is approximately equal to the revenue generated by alcohol sales. Indirect spending on programs that help to address community wellness and social programs more than doubles that amount. If it were possible to calculate the indirect costs associated with drug and alcohol abuse of all our government spending, it would demonstrate that the government spends several times more on prevention and treatment than the revenue received for the sale of alcohol. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Sharon Ladd, NWT representative of Women in Trades and Technology and Ingrid Bron, the secretary administrative for Women in Trades and Technology National Network.

-- Applause.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 226-13(4): Progress on Consolidation of Subsidies

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services and it is in regards to the issue of cataloguing and consolidating the various subsidies that apply to seniors. Could the Minister indicate what the plan is at this point now that they have done the initial work to try to do the rough formula for consolidation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 226-13(4): Progress on Consolidation of Subsidies

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the social envelope departments have prepared a draft report for outlining the programs that are provided currently to seniors. Our staff did do a presentation with the NWT Seniors Advisory Council, last week. The Ministers of the social envelope, myself, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Dent, also met with the NWT

Seniors Advisory Council. We made a commitment to try to work with them and try to flesh out some of these programs and try to address some of their concerns and their issues relating to the programs that affect seniors here in the NWT, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 226-13(4): Progress on Consolidation of Subsidies

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my Member's statement, there are about 21 different subsidy programs that the government has, scattered across eight different departments, boards and agencies. Will the Minister be proceeding, with his colleagues in the social envelope, to come up with a way to better formulate the integrated services, as has been requested by the NWT Seniors' Advisory Council? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 226-13(4): Progress on Consolidation of Subsidies

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is one of the goals of the exercise in trying to provide better coordination. To provide some consistencies between some of the programs and to deal with the issues of fairness and equity and accessibility of these programs to seniors throughout the NWT. There will be, as I indicated earlier, a work plan put together, in consultation with the Seniors' Advisory Council, to lay out some of the time lines on some of the issues that will be discussed over the next round, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 226-13(4): Progress on Consolidation of Subsidies

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary is in regards to the involvement of the NWT Seniors' Advisory Council. The Minister indicated that he would be consulting with them on the development of the work plan. Would the Minister also indicate whether he will be involving the seniors in the ongoing work that is going to be taking place, to try to bring this particular issue to a successful resolution? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 226-13(4): Progress on Consolidation of Subsidies

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, of course, we are waiting currently for our staff to put together a proposed work plan, which would also include the extent of involvement the NWT seniors would have in the process. My personal preference, as the lead Minister, was to have members of the Senior's Advisory Council actually sit on some of the working groups in this review. However, it is an issue that our social envelope committee, my colleagues, will have on the table for discussion before finalizing the work plan on this matter, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 226-13(4): Progress on Consolidation of Subsidies

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister then take the specific, written concern by the NWT Seniors' Advisory Council, that they be involved in the manner suggested by the Minister of Health and Social Services, to the table with his other colleagues, and impress upon them the importance, if, in fact, they have this involvement and consultation on an ongoing basis, if this is going to be a meaningful, accepted piece of work? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 226-13(4): Progress on Consolidation of Subsidies

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, yes, I do recognize the importance of it. I believe my honourable colleagues also recognize the importance of having some direct involvement, as early as possible, in proceeding with some of its work. So, it is a matter that will be discussed and clarified in the near future, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 227-13(4): Programs for Senior Homeowners

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today will be directed towards the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. I would like to know what programs we have available today for seniors who own their own homes and are in need of assistance in repairing their own homes? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 227-13(4): Programs for Senior Homeowners

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, seniors that own their own homes are eligible, as anyone else, to all the programs and services that the corporation has to offer. In addition, there is a special program geared towards repairing seniors' homes, that has been set aside for seniors only.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 227-13(4): Programs for Senior Homeowners

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform me if there are special qualifications or, if you qualify as a senior in age and have your own home, that you would be able to fit into this program for getting assistance? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

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Further Return To Question 227-13(4): Programs for Senior Homeowners

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I do not have the criteria in front of me. One of the qualifications is, in fact, age. Also, the state of repairs needed to the house and what other resources they have, whether they actually need the support or not.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 227-13(4): Programs for Senior Homeowners

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister inform me if seniors who own their own homes and are on a pension would be qualified for getting this assistance for doing repairs to their home? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 227-13(4): Programs for Senior Homeowners

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I believe so.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 227-13(4): Programs for Senior Homeowners

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister provide me with information regarding seniors, so that I can bring that information forward to the community? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 227-13(4): Programs for Senior Homeowners

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I will arrange to have a package delivered to the Member today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 228-13(4): Icebreaker Service to Pelly Bay

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transportation. Two days ago, I asked the Minister about the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker service being reduced in the affected area. At that time, I was going to have a supplementary to that question, but we ran out of time, so I did not have the chance to further ask the Minister about the service.

Mr. Speaker, Pelly Bay, as you all know, is dependent solely on the icebreaker service, the Canadian Coast Guard and this government has made a substantial saving by using the icebreaker service to Pelly Bay, when they bring in the building materials, petroleum products, and other essentials for the community. The community has not had any substantial saving, but that is another point.

Mr. Speaker, because Pelly Bay is so dependent upon the icebreaker to bring in the yearly supply for that community, will the Minister assure this House, and the people of Pelly Bay, that service to Pelly Bay, provided by the icebreaker, will not be cut off in the next few years? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation. Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 228-13(4): Icebreaker Service to Pelly Bay

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in reply to the honourable Member in regards to icebreaker service to the municipality of Pelly Bay, the information that I have is that the Pelly Bay relief icebreakers will not be affected, as far as I am concerned, at this point in time. Further, that the Department of Transportation is trying to get an extension to the federal commitment to the Pelly Bay marine resupply for a number of years. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 229-13(4): Catholic Schools "Bridges" Programs

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, in the House, I made a statement on a new program developed by the Yellowknife Catholic schools, entitled "Bridges", which was a program designed to help young people assume a role in the workforce from school participation. My question is to the Minister of Education. Has he had an opportunity to look at this program, as of today? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 229-13(4): Catholic Schools "Bridges" Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Yellowknife Public Denominational Education Council, the Separate School Board here in Yellowknife, did deliver a proposal for a program to the assistant deputy minister for Culture and Careers in January of this year. I have since had a chance to have a look at it. The department, I think, is intrigued by the program. It looks like a positive approach and I understand there will be a meeting in the next few days between department officials and the Catholic school board, to discuss whether there are ways that funding could be located. The department is particularly interested in looking for areas of funding outside the department, at this point in time.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 229-13(4): Catholic Schools "Bridges" Programs

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that. I was wondering when the Minister has had an opportunity to take a look at that program, if he will ensure that other educational districts in the Territories will have an opportunity to review it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

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Further Return To Question 229-13(4): Catholic Schools "Bridges" Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have read the proposal myself and do find it to be worthy of consideration. As the Member will know, the department has some problems right now of finding adequate funding to deliver all of the services with which we are tasked. It is not easy to say that just because it looks like a good program, we are able to fund it. We are hoping to work with the Denominational Education Council and see if there is a way to resource the program and we will certainly see if the Education Council is willing to share that proposal with other education councils across the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 230-13(4): Housing Corporation Policy

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, prior to Christmas, I was advised by one of my constituents that they were forced to give up their access home, simply because they could not afford it. As a result, they attempted to secure housing through the local housing association but, unfortunately, they were refused. The reason

given was that, if they were at one point the owner of an access unit and gave it up, that they could not then obtain social housing. I would like to know if the Minister could confirm that is the policy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 230-13(4): Housing Corporation Policy

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I can provide the Member with the exact policy guideline, but I do believe that one of the criteria for getting into social housing is the fact that you do not have arrears towards the local housing authority or the Housing Corporation, which may have been the case, with this example.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 230-13(4): Housing Corporation Policy

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister confirm whether or not the policy, as it is stated, if a person does not have arrears. If they simply gave up the house because they could not afford to make the payments, they found them too strenuous, if they would be refused by the LHOs?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 230-13(4): Housing Corporation Policy

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, each individual case is different. I would imagine that the LHO would look at the severity of the need of the family. If the family did meet all the requirements for being able to get into social housing, they would certainly have to go on the list. As everybody probably knows, these housing authorities do have fairly long waiting lists. If they do meet all the requirements, then they would be on the list.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 230-13(4): Housing Corporation Policy

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister saying that if the family gives up the unit because it simply just cannot afford it, they have no arrears, that they should be given the opportunity to gain local housing? There should be no reason why they would not be accepted or put on the list for local housing. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 230-13(4): Housing Corporation Policy

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I will have to look at the actual policy and agreements that these new home owners sign. Whether or not, at the time they accepted assistance for home ownership through the Housing Corporation, whether they are giving up the ability to use social housing again, I will check into that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 231-13(4): Funding For Contracting of Municipal Services

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. In the private sector, communities do not receive either capital or O and M funding for equipment and facilities, which are supplied by contractors, and not owned by communities. On the other hand, when communities deliver municipal services through their own process, they receive capital funding for equipment, infrastructure, as well as O and M funding, for the operation and maintenance within those communities.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, in the case of a community that wants to look at contracting out certain sectors to the private sector, that they

should not be penalized and they should receive the same amount of funding as those communities that do receive O and M funds. Is the Minister presently looking at that possibility?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Thompson.

Return To Question 231-13(4): Funding For Contracting of Municipal Services

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Member was making his Members' statement, I thought he meant the municipal government should not be competing with the private sector. The question seems to be different. We are looking at municipal financing of all local governments in the communities. This is one of the items that

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has been discussed in the NWTTA meetings, and also with my department staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 231-13(4): Funding For Contracting of Municipal Services

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is exactly what I am trying to say. Communities that go into private contract or the private sector, for road maintenance and what not, do not receive the same amount of funding as communities make who require their own equipment, maintain their own equipment, for which they receive O and M funding and also infrastructure funding. I am wondering why is there such a discretion between communities who do contract work and communities who do not? Could the Minister tell me if they are trying to address that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 231-13(4): Funding For Contracting of Municipal Services

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is one of the issues that we are discussing in the municipal financing review. I will get back to the Member after I have talked to my advisors from the department as to how that is going. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 231-13(4): Funding For Contracting of Municipal Services

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to communities that do get into contract services, the Minister also could look at the possibility of allowing those communities to generate revenues through equipment rental or basically servicing an outside contractor who may come into the community who may need that equipment. Can they also have the ability to generate revenues by leasing that service to other clients besides the government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 231-13(4): Funding For Contracting of Municipal Services

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the initiatives that we have that is a priority of this government is community empowerment. If a community wants to do planning ambitioning for their community, how their community wants to operate the functions within their boundaries, then that is an option that they have. This is one of the issues that we are discussing in our department under our municipal operations review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 231-13(4): Funding For Contracting of Municipal Services

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the municipalities having the ability to move revenues

around for a certain capital project versus building new structures, that the capital could be used for rent facilities or upgrade facilities, but those revenues are not taken back by this government. Is there a possibility that there is more flexibility to move money around within the municipalities, instead of basically restricting them on the conditions that they are allowed to spend those dollars. Could the Minister tell me if there is a possibility of easing up on those restrictions, so that communities can spend those revenues on other items they may want to use them for, such as a gymnasium, for instance?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 231-13(4): Funding For Contracting of Municipal Services

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the things the communities can do, and I have said this before, is that the communities can be block-funded for a single program or a capital project. Block funds can be for a number of programs or projects, and the big key in this is that block funding to that community would mean flexibility with their funds to do what they want to do with their money. The block funding agreement would allow the communities to identify local issues and plan and allocate resources to solve them and take responsibility for the design and delivery of local programs and services, and have more independence in administration, spending choices, and revenue generation. Also take control of GNWT resources and use them more effectively and flexibility. Also to accept a more comfortable degree of funding certainty over a term of the agreement, and become accountable to local residents instead of GNWT. This is one of the things that communities should be looking into, so they could have more flexibility in allocating the funding to other resources in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 232-13(4): H&SS Strategic Planning Process

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health, Mr. Ng. Mr. Speaker, the

Minister announced a health review to be carried out by a company called Med-Emerg. My question for the Minister is, will this study be used to support the construction of the Nunavut and Inuvik hospitals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 232-13(4): H&SS Strategic Planning Process

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my statement, the strategic plan is to make recommendations as to how the health care and social service systems could be established for both Nunavut and the western territory. What I could see coming out of it that could impact on the Iqaluit hospital and the Inuvik hospital, is depending on what recommendations come forward, and whether those recommendations are acceptable, what program and scope of those programs would be available to those two facilities. That would impact on the size of the

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facilities and the dollars that would be spent to meet those needs, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 232-13(4): H&SS Strategic Planning Process

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the construction of the Nunavut and Inuvik hospitals are very important, as has been expressed in this House. I wonder, what is the time frame for the completion of the report, and when it will be able to be viewed by members of the public and the Members of this House? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 232-13(4): H&SS Strategic Planning Process

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The anticipation is to have a draft strategic plan ready by the latter part of April, and for some extensive further consultation over the course of the summer, with the goal of trying to finalize the strategic plan for us by late fall, in order to carry forward and try to implement some of the structural changes that will be required as a result of this strategic planning process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 232-13(4): H&SS Strategic Planning Process

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess the Minister is talking metaphorically when he says structural changes. What are the structural changes that the Minister is referring to? Is he referring to the mandate of the department, the different aspects of the direction of the department, or actual facilities?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 232-13(4): H&SS Strategic Planning Process

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I refer structurally to program changes that would be necessitated as a result of some of the recommendations that would be coming forward in the draft strategic plan. Of course, if those strategic recommendations for changes were palatable for us as politicians representing constituents throughout the territories, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 233-13(4): Western Constitutional Consultations

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Honourable Mr. Antoine. It is with respect to the constitutional

process. I wonder if the Minister could tell us when the consultation meetings are held, what will be the subject of consultation? Will the committee bring forward the report "Partners in a New Beginning", in the main proposal of that? Or will there be a list of principals? Exactly what is it that they will be consulting the public about?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 233-13(4): Western Constitutional Consultations

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the consultation process that we will be undertaking in the communities in the western NWT is of course the "Partners in a New Beginning" document, along with all the different types of information that is available from many years of constitutional development work in the Northwest Territories. That includes the history, the chronology of events over the number of years that talks have gone on, and in different types of forms that existed in the North until present day. We are going to use all of that information and make sure that everybody has a very clear picture of exactly what it is that has been documented until this point in time. Hopefully, once this is done, people will have a clear understanding of what this document is about and will try to answer all of the questions as a result of the "Partners in a New Beginning" up to this point in time, as a result of the presentation we hopefully will make in the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 233-13(4): Western Constitutional Consultations

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The "Partners in a New Beginning" had three proposals in it, but the two other proposals were not expanded upon the way that the first proposal was. I wonder if the Minister could tell us, will the committee doing the hearings and the consultation provide further information on those two proposals?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 233-13(4): Western Constitutional Consultations

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the other two models that are in the document "Partners in a New Beginning", there is other information that was developed throughout the summer in the many meetings we had. We have asked some of our officials to take a closer look at these two other models, and come out with some information on those two. Yes, we hopefully will be bringing more information to these consultation meetings in relation to the other two models. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 233-13(4): Western Constitutional Consultations

MR. OOTES:

Would the Minister advise us what the process will be once the consultations have taken place in regard to the re-drafting, and will that come back to the Members of the western Caucus for review?

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MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 233-13(4): Western Constitutional Consultations

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the intention is that as the rolling draft is developed, we will try to keep in touch with all the Members of the western Caucus, as well as our partners, the aboriginal leadership. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 233-13(4): Western Constitutional Consultations

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell us what the ratification process will be once the western Caucus has approved this proposal?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 233-13(4): Western Constitutional Consultations

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the question of the ratification process is that the whole process of community consultation and revising the rolling draft, and once it is finalized to the point where we feel we could offer it to the public in the western NWT, then there will be a ratification process. That process has now been talked about in the form of a vote of some sort, and we still have not really come out with a mechanism on how that is going to happen. There are different examples of ratification processes that have been in the north. The different claiming groups, the different formulas on how they have ratified their own claims. The Inuvialuit have their own process. The Gwich'in, the Sahtu, and the Dogribs also have gone through their own process. Those are used as examples of how we will determine the percentages at the end of the ratification process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 234-13(4): Assistance to Western Leaders' Gathering

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for overseeing issues relating to division through the Division Secretariat. I noticed a press release today where they talked about the Sixth Nunavut Leaders Conference, and I am also aware that there is another major conference in Nunavut sometime in March, and that the GNWT has thrown in funding towards these particular events, and others. My question to the Minister is, the leaders of the western territory are talking about trying to arrange their first ever gathering of western leaders at the end of March, beginning of April, to discuss issues related to division and formula financing and other critical related issues.

Would the Minister consider assisting to help set up and fund this very critical meeting of first ever gathering of western leaders? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 234-13(4): Assistance to Western Leaders' Gathering

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me try to put it in context. The Nunavut leadership meetings that are taking place in February in Cambridge Bay and its predecessors, in which Nunavut Caucus, NIC and NTI have been the principal partners in the discussions, each of these organizations have funded themselves. The territorial government, per se, has not funded the total conference. NTI funded its expenditures, et cetera. But it is fair to say that there was some financial assistance sought from the MSB and from the Nunavut Caucus to assist in that, although, in my understanding it was not a significant amount of dollars. I want that to be said in that context. I would be very comfortable in saying that I believe there would be support within Cabinet and the FMB and with this ministry, to assist the western constitution process with similar support, as I have laid out, that is currently provided to the Nunavut Leaders' Summit. Yes. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 235-13(4): Distinction Between Continuous and Non-Continuous Employees

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question at this time will be directed to the Minister responsible for the FMB. Mr. Speaker, since we have gone through our first year, since the changes to the public service contract has been put forward in regards to the Donny Days that were talked about so much by the employees, I would like the Minister to tell me, why is there a difference between a continuous and non-continuous employee when it comes to the rate of pay and the amount of days they have to work throughout the year? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 235-13(4): Distinction Between Continuous and Non-Continuous Employees

HON. JOHN TODD:

First of all, let me say that the days off that were negotiated under the collective arrangement, I think it would be fair to say was a resounding success. Any employees that I have talked to were very appreciative of the fact that arrangement was made and I think through the joint efforts of the UNW and ourselves, I think we were able to make arrangements so that peoples pay cheques would continue. It is my understanding, and again, I qualify this by saying I stand to be corrected, it is my understanding that continuous employees are people who are working shift work or working things like correctional facilities, et cetera, and that their pay continues on, so therefore, they do not get the five days but they get the same amount. I have to get this right and my colleague did warn me that this question was coming. Mr. Speaker, I have to take the question as notice. This is the second one that I have taken as notice and I am disappointed in myself. I apologize to my colleague for not having the answer today, I will take the question as notice, because I know it is an important one and report back to him tomorrow. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 236-13(4): Update on Sale of Staff Housing

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for FMBS, Mr. Todd. It is regarding the sale of staff housing. I believe the sale of staff housing was to contribute to the income of the government this present fiscal year and next fiscal year. Can the Minister update us on where the sale of staff housing is at as regards to this fiscal year that we are presently in? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 236-13(4): Update on Sale of Staff Housing

HON. JOHN TODD:

It gives me pleasure to say that the sale of staff housing is, believe it or not, a resounding success. I would like to publicly commend the real estate agents that are out there working hard to sell the houses on behalf of this government. Perhaps I should have done that months ago, and we would not be in this position we are in today. But, the sale of staff housing is going very, very well right now. There will be, obviously, some people that are disappointed, because they have chosen not to, for a variety of reasons, purchase their homes. There are a variety of community based and regional based organizations purchasing these units where the employees choose not to. I am pleased to say that to the credit of all of these organizations that are purchasing them are either community owned or regionally owned by northerners. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 236-13(4): Update on Sale of Staff Housing

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that the NWT Housing Corporation has got a down payment assistance program where the government will offer, or give to candidates for purchase of homes, their down payment. Has there been any use made of this program for the sale of staff housing? Has anyone made use of the down payment assistance program to purchase staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 236-13(4): Update on Sale of Staff Housing

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker. Well of course, Mr. Speaker, I think that the deal that we have given to our employees is an excellent one, and I would hope that we would not give them any other incentive, when you consider that with some of them are getting them for 25 to 45 cents

on the dollar. I have said on many occasions, both in the House and out of the House, it is inconceivable to me how some people have not purchased them. It is a unique opportunity that no other government in Canada has given its employees, and I think it would be safe to say that the incentive that we have given them through the reduction in the appraised value, and the fact that we are asking them to make an offer on it, and we are prepared to purchase it back if they want to leave, that is about all the incentive they need and I do not believe that there is any further incentive through a down payment assistance program, although I will double check with my colleague, Mr. Arlooktoo.

In my discussions with some of the Inuit owned development corporations, none of which I am associated with, I mean I say for public record because there are those who are accusing me of that, are actually actively giving those mortgages through the conventional banks and through some of the people that were assisting us, for example in the rural fund. So I am very, very pleased with the fact that, from Clyde River to Tuktoyaktuk, we are going to see locally owned, both individuals and groups owning these units and providing cost effective, affordable housing to our employees. And at the same time, meeting the targets that we set of 27 million in revenues to meet our deficit elimination strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

No, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Steen. Oral questions.

Question 237-13(4): Membership of Touring Constitutional Group

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to Mr. Antoine, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know what is the proposed makeup of the Constitutional Working Group tour members? What is the make up of that group that will be touring the communities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 237-13(4): Membership of Touring Constitutional Group

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this point in time, because we just concluded a couple of days of meetings and we gave direction to the executive director, Mr. Fred Koe, to come up with looking at what kind of facilitators are out there. Hopefully, in the regions and in the communities that we could utilize to help us in making sure that there is proper consultation done at the community level and also looking at the schedules of the MLAs, which I mentioned the other day. We are all busy here in the House until the end of February perhaps, the way things are going, maybe into March, so our time is very scarce, and as a result of that we have to look at putting a team of consultation tour to go into the communities hopefully with Aboriginal Affairs staff and facilitators once we identify them. Hopefully if MLAs are available, that is also the most desirable team at this point in time, but exactly who is going to go where, we are still developing that plan of action. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Supplementary To Question 237-13(4): Membership of Touring Constitutional Group

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is there any consideration being given to the suggestion that a small impartial tour group be used to gather information and feedback from the communities?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 237-13(4): Membership of Touring Constitutional Group

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this point in time, the suggestion that the honourable Member is making could be utilized into how we formulate these teams. The idea here is to have a team that is very up and knowledgeable on the information that we have, so we will probably have some sort of a workshop for whoever is going to be going to the communities so that they are fully aware of all the documents that we have and any information that we have. At the same time, with giving out the necessary information, we have to have the type of people that will be capable of receiving the information so that we can bring it back, so what the honourable Member is suggesting is a type of a group that would be used. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 237-13(4): Membership of Touring Constitutional Group

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the larger centres like Yellowknife and Inuvik and my region are pretty well assured that they will have participation in making responses to the tour groups. However, with the cost that is being identified to the party that is making the tour, travel costs, whatever, I wonder if the Minister can give us assurance that each and every community in my riding will have the opportunity to be visited by this tour group. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 237-13(4): Membership of Touring Constitutional Group

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, because of the seriousness of this information, and the seriousness in which we take this process of trying to get information out to each and everybody that is in the western NWT, and we need to get the information from as many people in the community as we can, yes each community is identified to be visited by this team. Yes, I assure the honourable Member that the communities in his constituency, each community will be visited and that this information will be given to them. Hopefully, their reactions and comments will also be taken very seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 238-13(4): Copy of School Insurance Policy

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, Mr. Dent. It is in regards to the Chief Julius School that was destroyed by fire in Fort McPherson over a year ago. The question that I would like to put to the Minister is, can I receive a copy of the insurance policy that is in place for the Chief Julius School that was destroyed in Fort McPherson?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 238-13(4): Copy of School Insurance Policy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is no policy that relates specifically to that structure. The Government of the Northwest Territories has an overall insurance policy. I do not believe that the Department of Education has a copy of any insurance policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 238-13(4): Copy of School Insurance Policy

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Speaker, in regards to the whole question of insurance for Chief Julius School, could I have any documentation in regards to the items that may have been lost in that school and have been covered by insurance?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 238-13(4): Copy of School Insurance Policy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I reported to the House, I believe last week, at this point in time there have been no proceeds received from the insurance company. To the best of my knowledge, it will be another couple of months before we can expect to see any proceeds from the insurance. In terms of the list of assets that may have been consumed, I would expect that we would have received such a list from the Denominational Educational Council. I will have to look into that and get back to the Member as to whether or not such a list is available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 238-13(4): Copy of School Insurance Policy

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there a possibility that I may also receive the information that you do have from the insurance company in regards to the Chief Julius School?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 238-13(4): Copy of School Insurance Policy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that we have any information within my department. My officials are working with the officials of this government who are responsible for the insurance policy to

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assist in the determining what level of compensation the government will receive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 239-13(4): Privatization of Petroleum Products

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for my good friend, and from his earlier comments, a big fan of mine, Mr. Goo Arlooktoo, the Minister responsible for POL. Can the Minister update this House at this time on the proposal or the process for the privatization of POL? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 239-13(4): Privatization of Petroleum Products

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister responsible for all the privatization initiatives is the Minister for Resource, Wildlife, and Economic Development. But I can say that the Department of Public Works has been working closely with that department in putting a proposal together. We are in the final stages of preparing a document for Cabinet to look at.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 239-13(4): Privatization of Petroleum Products

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in this privatization document under the Department of Public Works and Services and POL that the Minister just mentioned, when does the Deputy Premier, the Minister of POL expect this document to be available for the Members of this House and the appropriate standing committee which POL falls under? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 239-13(4): Privatization of Petroleum Products

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer that as the lead Minister is Mr. Kakfwi, but I will ensure that the appropriate committee is informed as soon as arrangements can be made.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 240-13(4): Inclusion of NWT on Financial Publication

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. I have had the opportunity to look over a document of the Investment Dealers Association of Canada, and it is particularly related to Canadian Financial Roundup. I would suggest that there are many good items in this magazine.

Something that I see neglected is any reference to the NWT or the Yukon. Each of the provinces and a small write-up is included about each of them and their financial implications, and some of the important features that they are taking part in.

Like Mr. Ootes, I also am concerned about, he talked about it earlier today, concerned in the drop in capital funding, but I think it is important also to look out, what other provinces are doing. I do not think that our drop is out of line with what other jurisdictions are doing. It is important to look at the big picture, I know it is a concern. But my question to the Minister of Finance, will he write to such organizations such as this one, Canadian Financial Roundup, where no reference is made to the Yukon or the NWT, and encourage them to, as we are part of this country, include some financial data from our jurisdiction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 240-13(4): Inclusion of NWT on Financial Publication

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a real believer that any news is better than no news. I will commit to do exactly as my colleague says, and find out why we are not involved in this particular document. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 241-13(4): Privatization of Petroleum Products

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to Mr. Arlooktoo, Minister responsible for Public Works. Mr. Speaker, my question is in regard to privatization of POL. Mr. Speaker, in some of my communities, the government contract to the supply of fuel and services are operating on a month to month basis, and have been doing so for quite awhile now. This causes a problem as to their ability to get financial assistance because of the length of contract involved. It also causes a problem if they want to sell the business. Well, it is hard to sell a business that has no stated future, depending on public works decision on privatization.

My question to the Minister, Mr. Speaker, is how much longer are those contractors, can these contractors be expected to be asked to proceed in this fashion on a month to month basis?

MR. SPEAKER:

Just to remind the Member when Mr. Arlooktoo responded, Mr. Arlooktoo did say that Mr. Kakfwi is responsible for POL. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 241-13(4): Privatization of Petroleum Products

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the concerns of the contractor in the communities, some of whom have been going on a month to month arrangement. As for timelines, I would hope by this spring that we would be able to give these contractors some certainty of where the government is going. I will imagine that it will be another couple of months before we can make some kind of announcement.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 242-13(4): Storage of Sealift Materials

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works and Services. I think that every Member of this House is aware of the fact that

when we travel across the NWT, in every community there are times when you see material and equipment belonging to the government waiting for construction season to begin, placed in an open area. I am sure tons and tons of the material is damaged by the weather or perhaps vandalized. Maybe people help themselves because we do not have appropriate storage for them. In times of restraint, when we cut programs and services, we also layoff so many people that I do not even have the number with me at this time. What is the government doing to protect the materials and equipment belonging to this government, in order to ensure that there is minimum damage done to these equipment and materials? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 242-13(4): Storage of Sealift Materials

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, that is also an ongoing concern of the government. In some of the communities we have to bring in materials six to eight months before the actual construction because of the transportation arrangements that we are forced to live with. That is, most of our materials have to be shipped from the south through sealift. Therefore, we do have to store this material in these communities. In some communities the damage or theft of materials has been reported, but it fortunately is not a major issue. We are looking into it. The Department of Public Works along with Housing Corporation and other agencies that will have to bring in materials and store them for the winter are aware of this and looking at options. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question period is over. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Picco.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 12-13(4): Ministerial Authorities Under New Education Act

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my written question is for the Minister of Education, Culture, and

Employment, the Honourable Charles Dent. On Friday, January 31, in this House, several questions, were put to the Minister regarding section 63(1) of the new Education Act which deals with principals employment contract. The Legislation states, and I quote, "a District Education Authority shall, for every school of more than one teacher, employ a teacher to be a principal of that school for a term not exceeding five years." My first question, Mr. Speaker, is why has the Minister chosen to impose the length of the term of the contract on the District Education Authorities, instead of allowing the individual authorities, to exercise responsibility clearly given to them under the Act? Question No. 2, clearly it is the intent of the Act to provide for some flexibility in deciding on the term of employment for principals. Why did the Minister choose a five year term instead of a three year or two year term? Three, what provisions are in the new Act to allow the local education authorities to dismiss a principal considering these new hiring practices? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Written questions. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Nunakput is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Do we have any nays? You have some nays. You do not have unanimous consent. Sorry, Mr. Steen. Written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return to Question 1-13(4): Policy on Fees Paid for Jury Duty

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Picco on January 21st in respect to policy and fees paid for jury duty. The jury fees regulations state that a fee of \$40 per day is paid to each person who serves on a jury. If it is a criminal trial, the fee is paid by the Supreme Court. If it is a civil trial, the fee is paid by the party who requested that the trial be heard by a jury.

Every person who serves on a jury is entitled to this fee. At one time, the GNWT had a policy of recovering this fee from its employees, since those who serve on jury duty also receive a paid leave of absence, designated as court leave. However, this practice of recovering jury fees from GNWT employees ended in 1993, as a result of an arbitration ruling, which concluded that it breached the terms of the collective agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Replies to opening address. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Iqaluit is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Do we have any nays? You have more nays this time. You do not have unanimous consent. Replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 8, Committee Report 2-13(4), 3-13(4), Tabled Document 20-13(4) with Mr. Steen in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I call the committee to order. We are on consideration of committee of the whole, Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997/98.

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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. Tabled Document 20-13(4), Report of the Joint Working Group on the Business Incentive

Policy. How would the committee wish to proceed?
Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Committee wishes to proceed with Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997/98, Committee Report 2-13(4), and Committee Report 3-13(4). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Is that the agreement of the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Committee agrees with this. Ten minute break?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. We will proceed with Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997/98 after the break.

--Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Order. We are on Bill 8, Appropriate Act, 1997-98, Financial Management Board Secretariat. We left off on general comments last night. Are there any further general comments? Before I proceed with any further general comments, I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Todd, if he would like to bring in witnesses.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, I would.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER:

Agreed. You may bring in witnesses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I would like to ask Mr. Todd, chairman of the Financial Management Board, if he would introduce his witness.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, on my immediate right is Mr. Lew Voytilla, deputy minister of the FMBS.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. We are on general comments on the departmental estimates by Members. Are there any further general comments? If there are no further general comments, can we proceed to the tail of the estimates?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. We are on the Directorate, page 2-30. Operations and maintenance, total operation and maintenance \$21,146,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, over the last couple of days in the House we have been asking questions concerning the situation regarding the staff housing initiatives. I was just wondering if the Minister would have available, now that he has his departmental officials with him, exactly how many houses have actually been sold to date, and the revenue generated from same?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

It gives me great pleasure to answer Mr. Picco's well anticipated question on staff housing. Mr. Chairman, since contracting with the real estate agents on December 11, FMBS has accepted offers to purchase

218 staff houses. These include multiplex units. The total appraised value of these staff housing is about \$6,300,000. The accepted offers were roughly \$5,500,000 or approximately 86.1 percent of the appraised value. In addition, Mr. Chairman, we are also in the process of finalizing offers to purchase on another 41 units with an appraised value of \$3 million plus, and expect that the offers will be accepted somewhere in the value between \$2.3, \$2.5 million. I think that we have already accepted a total offer of another 159 staff housing, with an appraised value of \$9.4 million. The offers accepted on these units are valued at somewhere around \$7.8 or 82.8 percent of appraised value. The average accepted offer per staff housing unit, average accepted offer per staff housing is \$49 thousand. We are very enthusiastic, and there is also an additional 69 staff housing units which are sale initiatives under the NWT Housing Corporation and the Public Works before are in the process of closing. We are closing on those as well.

Mr. Chairman, I think it would be fair to say, despite some of the discussions that were under way earlier in 96, the sale of staff of housing has been met with a renewed vigour on the part of individuals, and certainly on the part of both aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities and regional companies. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Directorate. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, following up on the other information given by Mr. Todd, of the 118 houses to date, how many of those houses have actually gone to employees?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do not have that particular figure before me, but I would like to say that employees were given ample opportunity to purchase the units, and there have been, for a variety of reasons some employees who have chosen not to. Our secondary position was to go to local based community owned aboriginal and non-aboriginal development corporations who, with the help of some lending mortgage companies, are proceeding to buy the units with the assurance that

they will provide cost effective, affordable housing to our staff. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Operations and maintenance. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, is it possible for Mr. Todd to get that information, to provide it to us? How many have actually been bought by our staff? How many have been sold to the private development cooperation? Which is a good point. It would be very hard to argue against the development corporations buying the staff houses. How many private companies have actually bought houses, also? If Mr. Todd has those figures available.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Chairman, many of these offers are pending, and we are moving in the sale of staff houses daily so it is hard, I am not trying to avoid the question, but it is hard to determine an accurate analysis of what is private, what is local, what was bought by the tenants, et cetera. I would be prepared to commit that once the dust settles and the majority of the houses are sold, that I would table in the House, the information asked for by my honourable colleague. I cannot give him an accurate reflection of that right now because we are selling them by the day. For example, we sold a large number of units in Iqaluit this weekend. We are selling some today in the Gwich'in area. I mean it is just wonderful. It is fluid. It is moving. It is enthusiastic. I will bring forward a full comprehensive analysis of who purchased the units to meet the request by my honourable colleague, Mr. Picco. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Operation and maintenance. Mr. Picco. We have Mr. Steen as well. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we are on the Directorate, I had some more questions in some other areas on the Directorate. If Mr. Steen would like to continue the housing line, I will defer to him, but I do

have some new questions on the other functions that are Directorate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe Mr. Picco that you are not asking a question that may require response. Right? I recognize Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Yes. Thank you. I would like to bring up another line of questioning unless Mr. Steen would like to continue this line.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco is wondering, Mr. Steen, if you will ask question as a supplementary from Mr. Picco. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have some questions on staff housing. In the budget statement, the budget address the Minister had stated that those houses that are not bought by the public would be turned over to the Housing Corporation. I wonder Mr. Chairman, did the Minister have assurance that the Housing Corporation is going to have funding to provide for O and M for these buildings?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

It would be fair to say that Mr. Arlooktoo, who has been working extremely hard to try to find creative solutions to our desperate housing shortage, that all of us around this table are involved with. The fact that, through no fault of his own or this government, the federal government arbitrarily cut \$43 million from the housing budget two years ago. We are looking at ways and means in which to bring forward creative solutions to what we call the social housing program. This transfer of any staff housing that is no longer required and redundant really will have a very small impact, but it will have some impact. We will transfer with it whatever funds we have to run these houses. With the hope that it will, in some small way alleviate, in some of the communities, because there are communities where the private sector will buy these houses up, et cetera, some of the housing problem.

The other thing that we did, if I may, to add to it. We also made the commitment and Mr. Arlooktoo supported it strongly along with the Housing Corporation, to turn over where we have some long term lease obligations that we cannot get out of, of turning these lease units that are vacant for use in social housing. This is where we are trying to get as creative as we can to try to have some small impact on the desperately short housing situation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister. On the list we have Mr. Steen, Mr. Henry, Mr. Barnabas and Mr. Picco. In that order unless Members who have not spoken yet wish to speak. Mr. Picco will remain at the bottom of the list. If there are no other Members who wish to speak, who have not spoken, there will be Mr. Steen, Mr. Henry, Mr. Barnabas, and Mr. Picco. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since these houses did not originate from Canada Mortgage and Housing, is there going to be problem in obtaining funding to do renovations to these houses in the future?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I think that Mr. Steen has a valid question. I think it would be fair to say that what we will do is transfer the money we have got, the O and M we have got to run those houses. And that may not be, and we are doing that analysis right now. We will have to take a look at how we are going to determine the short fall both in the O and M if there is a need for it and I expect probably in the maintenance. The reality is that the housing situation is so desperate right across the Territories, so that we have to look for some kind of desperate solutions. While this is not an ideal one, it is better than what we have right now. Mr. Steen has a valid concern. It is one that I am concerned about, and I am working that through with my colleague and Mr. Arlooktoo as we speak. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my second question is in regards to the transfer of the lease units to the Housing Corporations. In many of the communities, there are empty leased units that the government has paid for. I am wondering if this statement by the Minister only applies to the housing units, or does it apply to the apartment units that are leased as well?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, another good question by Mr. Steen as always. He is correct. We are looking at the leased apartment units as well. Where we are fiscally obligated to pay those rents through some contractual arrangements that we can not get out of, and there is a vacancy that is no longer required, we will transfer, or are in the discussions right now with our friends in the Housing Corporation, and my colleague Mr. Arlooktoo, to transfer those vacant units along with the associated funding to the Housing Corporation to try to alleviate in some small way, and I suggest to you it is not utopia, it is not the be-all, end-all but it will provide some relief

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in some areas. Thank you, Mr. Picco, for that applause. It will provide some relief in some areas where we have leased units that we are fiscally obligated to continue to pay.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister was good enough to identify the amount of housing units that he still had to sell. Could the Minister identify those, the number of empty leased units that would be transferred to the Housing Corporation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. This requires some detail. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, of course I would like to be able to provide that today, but I can tell you that the political direction to

move in the direction I just spoke about, took place prior to the budget. There was a budget initiative. It was in co-operation with the Cabinet and my colleague, Mr. Arlooktoo. We are, right now as you know, rationalizing some of the leases. I have been very clear in my position that if there are leases out there that we no longer require that we can get out of, in particular if they are not owned by northerners, we will get out of them. We are still working through that policy. I would not be in a position today to provide Mr. Steen with that, but I think it is an important question to be asked. It is a valid documentation to be requested. Once the dust settles, as I said to Mr. Picco in the housing side, I will provide Mr. Steen and the House, if they so wish, with that analysis. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen, we have two other Members who wish to speak who have not spoken yet. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question. First of all, Mr. Chairman, the Minister has stated this government wants to get out of the housing business other than for the Housing Corporation, of course. Could the Minister identify what it cost this government at this time for these leased units and what is the longest length of time for these leased units, before they expire?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is very important because this question has been asked before, that perhaps my definition of the government getting out of housing is not quite fully understood. The position that we have taken, is that the government is getting out of housing that it owns and operates and has a responsibility for. There is still a requirement, in some cases, for us to provide some leased guarantees and some long term leases for developers, privately owned people, development corporations, individuals, et cetera, to get their mortgages to provide the housing requirements to this government. When I say we are getting out of government housing, I mean the ones that we own, so we do not require maintenance guys to maintain them, so we do not have the ongoing

operational and maintenance costs, etcetera. That is not to suggest for one minute that we are going to get out of leases at this time, and I made that clear.

The overall costs in terms of leasing, budget requirements, my understanding of the year 1997/98 is \$9,170,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. We have Mr. Henry, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Henry to Directorate.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple of questions on the appraisals. When were the appraisals performed? Who did them? My understanding, the Minister said the department had received 80 percent of the appraised value. If we could confirm if that is right, around 80 percent? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, first of all it was done, the appraisals were done right across the Territories over the last two years by Yellowknife appraisal companies. I think it was important to point out that what I was indicating was the average price that we received for all these units was 86.15 percent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. We did not record the last statement you made. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was saying the average price received was 86.15 percent of the appraised value.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

The appraisals were done over the last year and a half to two years, I believe. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has told us that the sale of staff housing is ahead of what his expectations were, and I think that is great, especially getting 86 percent, I think that is good. How many units are left, and what condition are those units in? I guess I am trying to find out if we are down to the dregs now in the quality that is left. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. That requires some detail. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have any dregs. What we have done so far, and I do applaud the fact that the real estate agents have done a wonderful job and met the criteria that we set for the sale of those staff houses. Again, primarily in the Yellowknife area but it was also Hay River real estates as well. We are about half way, 50 percent, 60 percent there now. We are probably, again this is just a rough figure. I can get the actual figure, but we are probably sitting with somewhere just under 200 units to sell. I am optimistic that the majority of those will be gone by the end of March, the beginning of the new fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a final question. If a building contractor purchased one of these units in a community during construction of projects, will he be able to use that residence as accommodation for workers, or will he still have to use hotels? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

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HON. JOHN TODD:

The way we have structured the sale of staff houses, there is an understanding that the sale of those staff houses be used for exactly that, staff housing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. We have Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Todd, my question is, if there is government staff housing in a different community, let us say 20 miles from the community, and they are not being purchased, is FMB or the Housing Association taking over those units? Is FMB providing funding to maintain those units?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, if my honourable colleague is alluding to the 35 units in Nanisivik, which I think he is, I could be wrong, but if he is, then we are paying for those at the present time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Before I recognize Mr. Barnabas again, I cut off Mr. Henry inadvertently. Perhaps I was not watching him. He may have indicated that he wanted to continue supplementary. I apologize. I will recognize you again, after Mr. Barnabas has spoken. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I would like to know is, how long will this be maintained? How long will FMB be funding for maintenance of these units, through the Housing Association?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

This Nanisivik situation, as my colleague knows, is a bit of a unique situation because of the large role that the mine plays there and some of the historical involvement of the government. It is certainly our intention, as long as the staff housing requirements, we would continue to pay. However, if they get transferred to the Housing Association for public housing, we would transfer whatever dollars over or if we sell them. If we can find a satisfactory arrangement with either the mine or the individuals to sell those units, then that is when we would stop contributing to the O and M.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Mr. Henry, as I indicated, I may have not recognized you because I was not watching you, so do you wish to continue?

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one question. I did not quite catch what the Minister had said in response to my question about if a contractor, a building contractor purchases a unit in a community, will he be able to use that unit to house his personnel during construction? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, I am not the Minister responsible for contractual arrangements with Public Works or the Housing Corporation. It is my understanding that under our tender arrangements that commercial accommodation policy is the criteria. We have policies in place to protect commercial accommodation, bed and breakfast, et cetera, and people who own houses. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have questions in regard to division of Secretariat. I was under the understanding that yesterday, I could ask these questions that applied to the division of Secretariat under 2-30, page 2-30, Directorate. My question to the Minister responsible for Division, is in regards to the department's tracking of the divisional costs. I would like from the Minister, how long has this tracking of divisional costs been in place? How far back are we going?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is important to point out that the Nunavut Secretariat is in the Executive, but the Premier has delegated the

operational responsibility for that, to myself. That is the reason why he, yesterday indicated that I would answer the questions.

I think transitional costs, I believe that is what my colleague is talking about, we have been tracking that for both last year and this year. We are into our second year of tracking of what we believe are transitional costs related to the division of the two territories. We have been doing that on an ongoing basis for the last year and a half.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to know if this tracking includes all the costs of all the departments, or is it just directly related, or could indirect costs be considered? What does this include?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well I know, it would be fair to say it has been extremely difficult to define what is a division issue and what is not a division issue. That may be why we were not tracking it as early as we should. I do not know. I received this portfolio 15 months ago and when I took responsibility over for division, that was the first thing I put in place. How are we going to track what the costs are? The costs are to the best of our ability, are quite frankly judgmental. I think it could be fair to say that. I mean they are. It could be wages, travel, material purchases, contracts, fees, furniture, et cetera and I have insisted in letters to all Ministers that their deputies track, to the best of their ability, what they believe are divisional costs, both east and west.

We are in the process of doing that right now and I have some preliminary numbers, year to date that I could share with my colleagues indicating what we think the overall costs to date have been with respect to division. I have got to qualify that by saying the criteria, et cetera, for deciding what are division costs, has been somewhat judgmental, but at least it is there. It provides us a basis on which to initiate discussions and negotiations with respect to transitional costs with the federal government. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Operations and maintenance. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the Financial Management Board have a criteria set out to guide their deputy ministers and the departments as to what could be called transitional costs as well as incremental costs. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to this House what those costs might be to date for the west and what they might be to date for the east?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd, do you have the figures?

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well you know, frankly it is almost impossible to break it down east and west because you are working in sync for the fact that there are, and since I have taken over the ministry there are two basic developments of two governments. I do not know how many times I have to say that. That is the way I perceive it. I do not see it as one government, Nunavut, because it happens to be a little further ahead in its organizational framework. I say there are two governments. No, I do not have it broken down by east and west. What I have is a reasonable judgmental fiscal analysis of the cost to date by department as of the period ending October 3rd, 1997.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

February the 3rd, 1997, which I am prepared to share with my colleagues.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chair, I do not know if the Minister read off the amount. I noticed his microphone was cut off. Does the Minister have that amount?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do have the amount. It is \$1,108,870, approximately \$1.2 million.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Yes, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when we were dealing with the Executive, the Premier has identified that one position was for Nunavut, out of the nine positions. But he also suggested that half the cost associated with the Divisional Secretariat was for the west. Now, we have a figure from the Minister here, 1.1 million. Is it fair to say then that this figure represents half and half, half west and half east?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. I do not approach the division of the territories this way. I have tried to explain that on a consistent basis to the House. What I have done, is asked and rolled up what I believe are the rolled up costs associated by each department, have them document what they think the time they spent on it. The money they have spent on materials, the money they have spent on consultant fees, et cetera. Whether east or west. I really do not have and have not asked for it to be addressed on an east/west basis, so it would be difficult for me to be judgmental on that, Mr. Chairman. Again, I am not trying to avoid it, that is just not the way I see it. I see it as the two new territories that require equal attention, particularly on the fiscal side. It may be that one territory is further ahead because it has a mandate and a structure unfolding, and is a little further ahead than the other. It may be that there is more money spent on the overall 1.2 million there than in the west, but I could not tell you whether it was 60/40, 50/50, 80/20, I just could not. I never approached it that way. Sorry.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Yes, the division is pending and we treat it as pending, but imminent. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, I would expect the Finance Minister to be very specific in regards to where the funding is being applied, considering he is the Finance Minister. I have a hard time to believe that his department is not aware of where exactly this money is being spent. For instance, if the Department of Education is being asked to track costs for Arctic College in Nunavut, it would not be a problem to track those costs in Nunavut for training purposes. Now, I understand that there is x-number of dollars being supplied to this government to train Inuit for jobs in Nunavut. There must be a tracking system in place, which specifies where the money is spent. I can not believe the Finance Minister would be so vague as to allow the department to just say it is, basically all divisional costs and division is division. At some point in time, we have already addressed this question, Mr. Chairman, that east and west costs have to be addressed by the federal Finance Minister. I ask the Minister again, is there a system in place which exactly identifies the east costs versus the west costs, for division?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is important to point out that when Mr. Steen makes reference to the educational monies, that is transitional monies that were provided by the federal government. And that is transitional because there is a structure in place and a legislative commitment at the federal level to move on Nunavut. So that is important. I think it is also important to try again, because I know this was a major issue with Mr. Steen before, there is transitional costs, which we are trying to track. There are incremental costs that come after we determine what the core function of government will be that will have to be negotiated.

I am not trying to avoid the issue, far from it. I am a man who believes in detail and likes to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but I am advised by my staff that we have not tracked it on a territorial basis. I am prepared to go back and think about what Mr. Steen said, and see if there is some way to do that, but I can not commit to this today. I think it is also important that this Finance Minister believes that there are transitional and incremental costs associated with two governments, not just one. And when the

constitutional framework for the west unfolds and who know how it will be, that is up to the participants in that exercise, I believe there will be a requirement for incremental costs there as well, as there is a requirement for incremental costs in the east. Hence, my position as it relates to transitional costs. They are both east and west and, although I understand where my colleague is

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coming from, I will have to go back and think about what he said and see if, first of all, I can ideologically get my head around it, secondly, see whether I agree with it, and if I do agree with it, can I do it? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We have Mr. Erasmus and Mr. Picco. I will give you one more chance to speak for the time being, and I will recognize the Members who have not spoken yet as we review the Department of Financial Management Board. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate allowing me to finish my line of questioning. Mr. Chairman. I am not trying to gather this information just simply for the sake of gathering this information or to set east versus west. For instance, we have certain legislation which basically commits us to preparing for Nunavut. We also have decided as an Assembly that preparation for Nunavut is a priority of this government. We have gone through that process and we have decided that we are going to do that. That is fine. But what I am concerned about is that I do not want cost of east versus west. At some point in time, there should be discussions as to what these actual costs, which section of the territories these costs were applied to. That type of questioning is eventually going to come. Mr. Chairman, every time we spend a dollar in the east, somebody in the west says, well, we have to have one too. That type of thing obviously drives the cost of running this government up. That is my line of questioning. Are we keeping track of this thing? So that if somebody ever comes up with this argument, that we spent more in the east than we did in the west, we would be able to come up with these figures.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fully understand and I certainly respect the time and energy that Mr. Steen has put into this issue, both here and in the past. I do take a different position. I see the negotiation of two new formula arrangements as exactly that. It is an arrangement for two new formulas. It is not a question of saying, this is the pie, let us split it up. Philosophically, that is the position I have come from in my discussion with Mr. Morin. It is not a question of saying we have a billion dollars, let us put 60 percent over here and 40 percent over there. It is a question of going back to the basic needs, the essential services, and developing two new formulas. That is where I am coming from, philosophically. I want you to understand that because this constant arguing about who is going to get what is going to bog us down into a very serious quagmire. My philosophy and my approach to the formula financing arrangement, is that I am starting from scratch and developing two new formulas. That is the way I see it.

That is important to say that. I do not know if everyone sees it that way. I may be somewhat autocratic. I am taking the lead on it, and that is the position I have taken and I have made that clear to Mr. Martin and to the Department of Finance.

I fully understand Mr. Steen's line of questioning, and I think he is right that we need to address it, because it could become acrimonious and it could become divisive. I want to avoid that. What I have tried to do, a year ago when I was assigned this responsibility, was at least get the bureaucracy up and running as to identifying the costs. I will take into consideration what he has told me today. I will not commit to anything at this time but I will commit to reviewing whether or not it is possible to define it, east/west. But again, for clarity's purpose, I have to tell you, I do not see the negotiations of the new formulas based upon that concept. I see it based upon the concept of two new formulas, simultaneously, based upon the basic requirements of both territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Directorate. Operations and maintenance. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is regarding incremental costs. I do not think it has anything to do with the new formula financing arrangements, why we should track them. I believe that we should be tracking costs separately. I also believe that we are

creating two new territories, which I do not think has any bearing on keeping track of costs separately either. I think we all should be wary of the fact that the federal government will only pay certain costs. They are not going to accept the figure that we give them. If that is the case, we are going to have to substantiate what we want paid for. I am sure as prudent a businessman as Mr. Todd is, he will want to be prepared when the federal government asks him, why do you guys want to get paid this \$20 million of incremental costs or whatever it is? He is not going to want to go to his bureaucrats and say, do you remember what you guys did, two years ago on December the 6th? Did you work on this or did you work on that? To be on the safe side to ensure that we can get our money from the federal government, would it not be prudent to start keeping track now of all the work that is being done on the east, and differentiate what is being done in the west and exactly what they are doing? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Incremental costs are a separate issue than transitional costs. Incremental costs are the costs associated with running two governments, rather than one. You need to get the basic framework of those two new governments in place at the time to find out what those incremental costs are. To avoid prolonging this debate about east/west, etc. I will make a commitment to review what we are doing in relationship to east/west expenditures on the transitional side and get it back to the House as quickly as I can. If it is at all achievable to differentiate between east and west, I will take a hard look at how much it takes to do that, if the effort is prudent and advise the House accordingly. I will certainly move to analyze that. That is on the transitional side.

On the incremental side, as I said, we need to get a clearer definition of what the two new governments are going to look like, so we can start costing it, and then make the analysis of the incremental costs and seek the federal government's approval to secure that I believe I said earlier this or last week, we are optimistic that the officials at the negotiating level in which we have a broadly based representation, that their first meeting will be sometime in March. There they will work out the parameters of fiscal negotiations. I will keep the House apprised, and the

Government Ops Committee and others, of those developments as they unfold. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On the Directorate, Mr. Erasmus.

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MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the Finance Minister kindly differentiate the difference between the transitional costs and incremental costs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes. Absolutely, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you Directorate. Operations and maintenance, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could we get an explanation of the difference between transitional costs and incremental costs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd, would you please define the difference for the things we are looking at. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Transitional costs are the costs associated with the pre-implementing plan east and west. In preparing for negotiations, doing some of the preliminary work that we are doing. The work that Mr. Issacs, for example, is doing. The work others are doing for the west. That is what transitional costs are. The costs we are bearing now, are associated with preparing the plan, et cetera. The pre-implementation for Nunavut and the western territory, the training site, et cetera, are all part and parcel of transitional costs.

Incremental costs are costs associated with, if you want, the additional costs over and above the cost that we are currently expending for one government versus two governments. We are not at the incremental cost stage now. We have not yet

determined, for example, if I can use Nunavut because it is further forward. We have not determined with the parties at the table, NTI and the federal government, what is going to be the basic framework for the new government. Once the consensus of each has done that in the coming weeks, which I think is going to be addressed in Cambridge Bay, we will then be able to with our partners, et cetera. NIC put a costing attached to that, and then be able to define what the incremental costs are that put that new structural government in place. It will be exactly the same in the west, once the constitutional discussions unfold.

Let us just say, hypothetically, you come forward with some regionalized type of government. There will be incremental costs attached to that, so then that will be identified then. Incremental costs come at a later date, if you want. Transitional costs are now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry then. I was actually talking transitional costs. Can we get an indication of how much the incremental costs are being budgeted for this year - the transitional costs for this year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

The federal government on the Nunavut side is kicking in that \$150 million for education, infrastructure and all the rest of the stuff. We are tracking our costs, transitional costs, right now as we respond to Mr. Steen. I did qualify it by saying it is a bit subjective, but we are tracking it right now and it is somewhere in the region of \$1.2 million to date.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is projected for this coming year for transitional costs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

It depends on how fast things unfold. My feeling is, it will probably be somewhere in the range of what I just quoted you, a million, a million two, maybe even a little more depending on how quickly we accelerate some conclusion to the framework for Nunavut and to some extent, how quickly, Mr. Antoine and his group and the constitutional people move forward in trying to develop a framework for acceptance by the west. We have earmarked, if you want the terms of our budgeting purposes from a planning perspective about the same, \$1.2 million. It could be a little more. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we have contributed \$300,000 to an employment planning conference or something in the east a couple of months back. Is that included in the transitional costs estimation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Would that be the \$100,000 we contributed to the Work Fair Workshop that is being planned in terms of job sharing, etc. Could I just get clarity on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

I had understood that we had contributed \$300,000 to some type of conference already. Is that not the case?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. If you wish to you may designate your official to respond to questions at your discretion, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

No, we did not contribute \$300,000 to any conference at this time. I think maybe the member is alluding to the work conference that is coming up, I believe some time in February to which this government has contributed \$100,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Will that be tracked as a transitional cost?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Absolutely, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Mr. Picco, you were kind enough to give up your time to Mr. Steen, thereby I will recognize you now. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Continuing onto the Directorate. I have a couple of questions concerning the auditing function within the Department of the Financial Management Board Secretariat. How many reductions of staff auditors has the department done last year and projected for this year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco.

HON. JOHN TODD:

One moment, Mr. Chairman, and I will check with my trusted right-hand man, Mr. Voytilla, as to the amount of PYs that has been cut from this bureau. Two.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Two, right? Yes, I understood that. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under the auditing function of the FMBS, the role is to audit, I guess, all government departments. With the layoff of these two individuals is it with the new community empowerment strategy taking place? Does the Minister think there will be more demand on the services of his staff?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Chairman, it is an important point that we do not audit municipalities, that responsibility lies, I believe with Ms. Thompson's area of responsibilities. We do not audit those with community empowerment. I believe that Ms. Thompson will be able to demonstrate that she has the resources necessary to meet the new demands that are going to be placed on community empowerment in her department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Picco

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the total Directorate, what were the number of reductions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

It was 33 reductions in the whole department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 33 reductions for staff this 97/98, or for 95/96, or a combination 95/96, 97/98?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 33 PYs I was talking about were for 1997. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am trying to figure out what the loss is to the Directorate employees. I guess, my question would be, what percentage of that would be employees of the Directorate?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be five positions of the Secretariat. Is that what you are talking about? Yes, five PYs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Out of the total of Financial Management Board Secretariat, there were 33 job reductions, five out of the Directorate itself, is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my concern here is with the government moving toward strategies of downsizing and reductions, some of the positions within the Financial Management Board Secretariat, like the office of the regional and area superintendents and the auditing and budgeting evaluation coordination services, human resources, so on and so forth, are very important. I am just

wondering, with this reduction of 33 positions in total in FMBS, are they hard pressed now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I always believe in leading by example. I believe we have led in this issue. I want to assure my colleague that the new decentralized delegated approach under this ministry, that our staff are capable of handling the responsibilities they have before them and our layoffs were done in a caring and concerned way. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Todd, for a short space, the mike was off on my side. Do you want to repeat what you said?

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, fundamentally, you have to lead by example. I believe in our overall budgetary targets, the FMBS has demonstrated that it is prepared to make its commitment to a balanced budget which we have done. The staff that are left, who are hard working and who I have a great deal of respect for, are capable of handling their responsibilities because we have moved aggressively to push some of the responsibility out to where it belongs, to those managers that should have the authority and the responsibility, and that has enabled us to make those kind of dramatic changes that we have made within the organization. It was all part and parcel of our overall plan to put responsibility where it belongs and to downsize the FMBS and frankly, reduce its centralist authority. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Picco, I would like to remind you one more and then if you do not mind, I will move on to another Member.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do mind but I will defer after my next question. The point I am trying to get around here, Mr. Chairman, is that under the Financial Management Board Secretariat, they also have the human

resource planning services and the human resource policy development services, as we learned earlier this week when we did the office of the Premier and the Executive. The Executive also controls X-number of dollars in positions for the Department of Personnel, which is the same as human resource planning services. My question to the Minister is, in this downsizing it also seems like FMBS is taking on some extra responsibilities. Could the Minister explain to me, is the human resource planning services and the human resource policy development services within the FMBS, specifically for that department? Or is it for the overall direction of the Government of the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Actually, the reverse is happening, Mr. Chairman. Our human resource group are involved with labour relation negotiations, appeals, et cetera. That is what our role is here. I want to assure my honourable colleague that my department is capable of handling the workload it has with the resources that are available to it and we have them and I am confident will be able to see us through to April 1, 1999.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. I do not wish to limit your ability to ask questions, Mr. Picco. I will return to you after I have recognized Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question on the \$100,000 that the Minister alluded to earlier on for the work related project, I note that Nunavut will be receiving \$39 million over three years for education and training. If I look at that dividing over three years, around \$13 million. I look at Nunavut College, their annual budget is around \$11 million. I am wondering where the \$100,000 came about, because it seems like very much of a drop in the bucket to the \$13 million that they will have to contribute towards education and training.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If my memory serves me correct, it is \$39.8 million. It is federal money, part of the \$150 million that was voted in Cabinet at the federal level to prepare Inuit people for the Nunavut positions to meet one of the criteria, and that is to ensure that the civil service, the affirmative action policy, or the ratio of the civil servants in Nunavut is equivalent to the demographics of Nunavut, in terms of aboriginal people and it has no bearing our budget, per se, in terms of our delivery of current programs.

These are transitional costs approved by the federal government to meet the requirements for aboriginal people in the civil service that is going to come forward in the Nunavut government. The \$100,000 was a request from the eastern Arctic NIC and NTI, I believe. NIC I think, where they are having a major conference sponsored by themselves, the federal government, and others and asked us for a contribution to this conference that is going to deal with how we are going to go about developing a job strategy in a difficult fiscal world and it is going to deal with issues like job sharing. A different way of doing things in terms of job creation, et cetera. It is separate from the Arctic College funding that was provided by the feds. This is money that we provided directly as a contribution to this major conference on how we are going to go about developing a job strategy in the new Nunavut government with the limited fiscal resources that are now available to it, both now and in the future. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. For the record, we are on Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997/98, Financial Management Board Secretariat. Directorate. Operations and maintenance. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The point was, I just see it as a drop in the bucket, the \$100,000 compared to \$13 million is irrelevant. I believe and I have stated before that I think Nunavut will have an awful hard time spending \$13 million over each year for the next three years on that particular aspect. I certainly do not disagree with the initiative of the federal government that was what was negotiated. I do not have a problem, it is just a comparison of this \$100,000 to add to this \$13 million. It just seems like a drop there in comparison. But, if I can ask the Minister, I think it would probably help a lot if he was able to talk about

some of the activities that the Division Review Secretariat would be involved in regarding the new western territory. I think there is concern raised here of the amount of work that seems to be done for Nunavut and I think it would be important if the Minister could tell us about what types of work is done and in particular, what type of work the secretariat has done related to the west, to this point. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

If I may though, I think for clarity's purpose, just so Mr. Henry understands, that the money from the federal government in relationship to Arctic College, et cetera, is training dollars to train people. We are providing a \$100,000 contribution to a large conference and workshop. It is not part of the training component, it is a workshop and conference, just for clarity's purposes for Mr. Henry. The secretariat, the progress that is being that is being made on developing a framework for a new government in Nunavut, this being its focus, at least in the short-term, the last 12 months, has been primarily in the area, in terms of responding to Footprints in the Snow 2 towards setting the stage for negotiations of formula, et cetera. The last four or five months we have been working closely with Mr. Antoine's group in the constitutional side of things, trying to get a little more active, trying to bring them into the equation, of course because of my theory of we are negotiating two formulas, we are negotiating two new governments. Our involvement up to about three of four months ago was very limited. I think it would be fair to say that. It was primarily, as I say, involved in developing a series of plans and responses on the Nunavut issue as the constitutional discussions get under way there will be a greater involvement with it with Mr. Overbull's group, but at this time there has been a limited involvement because there has been limited progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. I have operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$21,146,000. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one question for the Minister. He has indicated that there are 33 positions

being deleted from FMBS. Once this budget is passed, and if those 33 positions make it through and are in the final figures, can the employees in the department expect some period of stability where we will be consolidating and

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putting things in working order, as opposed to anticipating further cuts?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I want to assure my honourable colleague that it is not just this department, all departments will have stability, and I tried to allude to that in the House, in question period. Stability, once we get through this, but we must get through this, to balance the budget and move on to greater and better things and I want to assure both my colleague and others that I have spoken with that I can not say unequivocally that this is the end, but as Finance Minister I am confident that all our energies and our objectives will be to reassure the civil service and the constituency at large that the balancing of the budget will bring about the stability that is necessary, not just for those that are employed, but for those who are not, for those that need medical care, for those that need education, et cetera. The balancing of the budget will bring about an environment of productive thought rather than the environment of concern, instability, that has existed the last 12 months. That is why I encourage all of you to make the tough decisions that we have to make. Let us move onward and get this budget approved and let us get into balancing the budget and moving forward in the year, year and a half that we have to providing productive new policies and new initiatives for our constituencies at large. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Financial Management Board Secretariat. Directorate. Total operations and maintenance, \$21,146,000. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the positions that are being eliminated, I wonder if the Minister could tell us how many of these positions are filled and how many might be vacant at the moment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

We are going to take the same approach as we took the last time around, and that is to try to deal with those positions based upon some empty positions, attrition, severance packages, et cetera. I mean that whole process is in place. I think it would be fair to say that when we did the first 12 months, the changes we made and we have said this in the House, that we did make a concerted effort to get rid of the empty positions first, the money accordingly. The empty positions are becoming less and less or vacant positions if that is the right term. I do not have at my fingertips what that is but if you just give me a moment, I will consult with Mr. Voytilla, who deals with that on a day to day basis. Excuse me.

Thank you. Every effort has been made, Mr. Voytilla assures me, to make every effort to work with the staff, try to reassign where the qualifications are and where there other vacant positions and to work earnestly, and I say this very sincerely, to avoid as minimum layoffs as possible. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I noticed that the number of positions on the boards of management being Health and Social Services, has increased by 84 across the Territories. Are these transfers from the territorial government? Is that included in the 400 and some positions that we are eliminating this year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My honourable colleague is correct. These are transferred positions from the government to the boards. I do not think it is part of the reductions because we transferred the positions, we have to transfer the money.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Total operations and maintenance \$21,146,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is in the area of affirmative action. Is this the right place to ask this, or is that the next? Does affirmative action apply to positions in management area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, it applies to all positions in the government system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday, in the response to a question I asked on interviews, Mr. Todd had indicated that there was a lot weight placed on interviews. Does he know how much weight is actually placed on an interview in relation to a person's qualifications?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

No, I am sorry, I do not.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Total operations and maintenance \$21,146,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did the Minister reply?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Todd, would you like to repeat your reply?

HON. JOHN TODD:

It is difficult to quantify what you place on this versus that. I am not aware, for example, on a scale of one to

ten, you say it is three points for this, five points for that. I am not aware of any weighing in a quantitative sense as it relates to interview versus affirmative action, et cetera.

I could tell you the policy of this government, and despite the fact we may not have done it as well as we should, but the policy of this government, and the Premier has given clear direction to the Ministers, that affirmative action is a priority, and they are going to be held accountable, including myself. As I said yesterday to my colleague, Mr. Erasmus, I would hope that, at this stage of the game, I know it is an important issue, it would give us the benefit of the doubt.

I hope that twelve months from now as we sit in this House again, that Ministers would be able to demonstrate to Mr. Erasmus and others that there has been movement in the

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affirmative action field as it relates to employment in this government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that the Minister wants some time to see how things have proceeded in order to evaluate. If I remember correctly, almost a year ago today, we did the same thing. That is when we really needed personnel, sometime through this process last year. It has already been a year, from my point of view. I do not think the people who are losing out on jobs over the next year are going to be too appreciative of having to wait another year before we can monitor things.

In the area of the interviews, is there anybody from FMBS that attends the interviews?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I understand where Mr. Erasmus is coming from, and he has a legitimate concern, as it relates to affirmative action. I am hoping that we will be able to address some of his concerns in the paper that we are going

to bring forward in the House, so we can have a healthy debate on it.

I do not think we will be able to address all of his concerns, but I want him to know that we are as genuinely concerned as he is about this area. We should get into a real healthy debate, as it relates to affirmative action with employment with this government.

The question on FMBS being active with interviews in other departments, the answer is no. We do get involved in the appeal process. We have the responsibility for that. As I said yesterday, everybody has the right to appeal. Our role is on the appeal side, but the responsibility now lies with each department to do its own recruitment, et cetera. Bearing in mind the criteria and the weight that this government places on affirmative action.

I think it is important to point out that in the interview process, the proper qualifications gets you into the interview. The interview itself is really to assess your actual skill and suitability for the work. The qualifications in the front end is what gets you into the interview. The interview really is a process of determining suitability and skill package. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So qualifications gets you an interview, and the interview is completely subjective. FMBS does not get involved until the appeal. Could we get some indication as to how the appeal is done?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Just to make sure I get this accurate, Mr. Chairman, I will ask Mr. Voytilla, who is intimately involved with the process of the appeals, to answer that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Voytilla.

MR. VOYTILLA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we conduct an appeal, there is an independent chairperson who is selected to oversee the appeal. There is a representative from management, and usually a representative from the union. They form a committee that hears from the appellate and from management and from people who conducted the staffing operation, and then they make a decision.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did Mr. Voytilla indicate that they interview the person that is appealing as well?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Voytilla.

MR. Voytilla:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they do interview the appellant.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Are the interviews taped?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Voytilla.

HON. JOHN TODD:

If I may, Mr. Chairman. No the interviews are not taped.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. For the record, that was Mr. Todd. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated before, I think interviews are very subjective. If the interviews are not taped, nobody from FMBS is actually there to verify what was said or not said, so how do you determine what to do when there is a discrepancy in

what the interviewers are saying happened and the appellant is saying they said something else in answer to their question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

The reason for a hearing and having independent counsel, is to provide that person with an objective forum in which to appeal their position. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that it is an attempt to have an objective hearing. However, if there was nobody there monitoring the interview, only the people from the departments are there doing the interview, there is no way to prove what he or she actually said. How do they determine, if there is a discrepancy about what someone had said in response to a question, who is right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am not trying to limit debate on this issue, but I would like to suggest to my colleague that this whole debate on affirmative action, which is a legitimate one, perhaps if there are some fundamental changes that the

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House wants changed, it may be appropriate to get into that when we table the paper, and I am trying to move forward as quickly as possible.

Again, I am not attempting to bring closure to the discussion. I am merely saying that we can have a healthier debate there, and the House can provide me with some of the directions to some of the changes they may want in the appeal process or other aspects of affirmative action.

However, an answer to his question is you have to evaluate the probabilities. You have to assume that the hearing process is fair. You have to assume it is

objective, because we have an independent chairperson. That is the way the system works across Canada when it comes to appeals. If there are some changes that are being talked about here, then I think we will listen to that, and look for some direction on that. But right now we do not tape those appeals and we assume that peer process is fair and the independent chairperson can look at the issue objectively. That is the intent of it. If that is not happening and there is some concern about it I would suggest to my colleague that we give serious consideration to this overall issue of affirmative action and how it is being handled when the paper comes forward. But I will respect his decision if we continue to discuss it today. But that will be my suggestion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total operations and maintenance \$21,146,000. And I am going to recognize Mr. Picco. and perhaps if Mr. Erasmus has a further question I will recognize him later. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just a final question under the Directorate for the Minister. At one time we had a proposal about eliminating some of the positions. I see, providing an evaluation, and the office of the regional area superintendent. What exactly is that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am terribly sorry Mr. Speaker, I did not quite catch the question. It did not come through, which is rare for Mr. Picco, but I am sure he will be only too happy to repeat it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. I will ask Mr. Picco if he could repeat his question?

MR. PICCO:

The Directorate contains the offices of the controller general, secretary of the Financial Management Board, and so on and so forth, and it also controls the offices of the regional and area superintendents. So my question was, what does that entail from the FMBS?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you. It entails, if he is talking about the regional offices, it entails the regional office, the staff and their responsibilities. He has one in his area which Mr. Neish I believe is the superintendent, so that is what it entails. Regional offices. Was that the question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand regionally... so you are saying you have a regional superintendent for FMBS, or you might have an area superintendent for FMBS? That was my point. I just wanted clarification on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you. My apologies. Know I understand. Five regional superintendents we have, and one area superintendent in Fort Simpson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you Mr. Todd. Mr. Picco. I am on total operation and maintenance, \$21,146,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does this area look after grievances as well?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I did not get the question, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Erasmus, could you repeat the question?

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are government employees who feel that they have been discriminated against because they are not being given fair opportunity for advancement, and they can

file grievances. I want to know if this area also looked after grievances.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While it does not come under this fiscal category, we are discussing right now, the FMBS has a responsibility to look after grievances and I believe it will probably come under labour relations, human resource management, which is the next activity we will hopefully approve.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Erasmus, did you want to follow up at this point? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

I will follow up later on. If there is no one else who wants to ask a question, I have a question in another area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total operations and maintenance, \$21,146,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget for the Directorate, total operations I see, is \$24 million. How many aboriginal people are employed in the Directorate?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fort Simpson, we have five employees, four aboriginal, one non-aboriginal. Fort Smith, we have 12 employees, eight aboriginal, two indigenous non-aboriginal, two non-aboriginal. Inuvik, 11 employees, nine aboriginal, one indigenous non-aboriginal, and one non-aboriginal. Keewatin, 10 employees, five aboriginal, three indigenous non-aboriginal, two non-aboriginal. Baffin, 11 employees, four aboriginal, one indigenous non-aboriginal, six non-aboriginal. Kitikmeot. Nine employees, six aboriginal, no indigenous non-aboriginal, three non-aboriginal.

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In the Directorate, we have ten employees, one aboriginal, two indigenous non-aboriginal, seven non-aboriginal. In accounting, one aboriginal, six indigenous non-aboriginal, 24 on-aboriginal. No accountants I guess.

In budget and evaluation, four aboriginal, two non-indigenous aboriginal, and seven non-aboriginal. Labour relations, three aboriginal, nine indigenous non-aboriginal, and 22 non-aboriginal.

A total complement of 177 employees, we have 47 aboriginal, 27 indigenous non-aboriginal, and 103 non-aboriginal.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. That was a long answer, I forgot the question. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I forgot the question as well. Just one final question. How many appeals were actually made last year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have that number at my fingertips. Just give me a moment, and Mr. Voytilla will check the records. We might have it there, and if not, I will provide it to my colleague and to the House.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, I have a total appeals in the year 1995 of 69 appeals.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Todd?

HON. JOHN TODD:

And I quote 1995 because those are the numbers we have, and we are just putting the numbers together for 1996. We have to do a report, a public service annual report every year. I would imagine it would be in the same area, but it was 69. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much. How many of those were successful?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Appeals upheld were 19, appeals denied were 50.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. I am on Directorate, total operations and maintenance, \$21,146,000. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

My question is regarding a question I asked the Premier that was redirected to the Minister of Finance, regarding individuals who may have left the government and may have received a compensation package, and then were hired back on under contract or casual. Has the Minister's department identified any of these irregularities regarding that practice by the government? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you Mr. Krutko. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think it is important to point out that when we give a severance package to our employees it is part of the deficit elimination strategy in some cases, in other cases it is not. It is part of their past performance with the government. In other words there is a policy in place that says you get this if you have been around for this long and for this reason. It is important to stress that, okay. It is for the past performance, and in keeping with the past performance of this government.

So, for an employee that has been around for 20 years agrees to a severance package as we move forward and try to down size government, we are obligated through our arrangements and policies, to provide him with the appropriate compensation package.

It is important that after leaving office, that senior officers may not own, operate, control, or be employed in any business enterprise after leaving the government, if, and this is important, there is an opportunity to unduly exploit the knowledge they have from previous government employment. That is, it is clear. Mr. Chairman, I do not see it as an issue, with all due respect to my colleague.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Just for clarification, Mr. Todd. Is this including early retirement packages?

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, the retirement packages are the same thing. If someone goes into retirement, early retirement or mandatory retirement, whatever it is, a department or Minister chooses to rehire them, as long as they meet the criteria set up in the code of conduct and ethics, under the Human Resource Manual, then they are perfectly free to. We can not deny them the ability to earn a living.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the individuals who have been hired back and who are former employees of the government, and then hired back either through the Executive or through department, on a casual basis, do you have information in regards to the number of people who have been hired back in that category?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Chairman, like I said to his previous question, we do not track it. There is no requirement unless someone can substantiate the reason as to why we should track it. There is no requirement at this time to track it. I would suggest to my colleague that should we enter into a contract with a former civil servant, it will be in the contract report that we present to this House on an ongoing basis. We will be looking there as to who is doing what. Like I said civil servant A, who is no longer with us, is back doing B, it will be reported in C. There is no requirement for it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Chairman. Could you give us a rough estimate of what these compensation packages cost an average of what the payout is when an individual may leave and how much does he get as part of the package? Say somebody got 10 years or 20 years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Todd.

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HON. JOHN TODD:

If you want, the severance package arrangements are set out in the Manager's Handbook, Collective Agreement, which Mr. Voytilla is a public document. I could certainly provide my colleague with a copy of the Manager's Handbook and Collective Agreement. I would not want to speculate today whether civil servant "A" gets this or civil servant "B" gets that. I can tell you, it is clear. Compensation in the severance package is based upon, to a considerable degree, previous service, time they have been in the civil servant's position they have, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the whole intention of the question is that, you know, on one hand we are, there are civil servants out there who have been laid off, left the government and basically took their package and looking for other employment but the whole practice that we have been following for the two years is to control the deficit and downsize the government. With this practice, on one hand we are told we are laying off 60 people, but on the other hand we are being told well, the 60 people got laid off but we hired back 30 on a casual basis. Is that the case?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

You know, if you look at this thing superficially, it may appear as Mr. Krutko has indicated as if it is double dipping. The fact of the matter - it is not. Let us be clear. It is not! With all due respect it is not. The policy is in place for severance packages. We can not deny a former employee the ability to earn a living, provided he meets the criteria set in the code of conduct and ethics in the Human Resource Manual.

I do not know how many former civil servants who have had severance packages are currently working for the government. But if I had to, and I would qualify it by saying guess, I would think it is a very small group of people. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. I have Directorate. Total operations and maintenance. \$21,146,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a waiting period people have to wait after they receive a severance package, before the government will rehire them?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

If somebody is laid off or takes a severance package, there is no waiting period for them to be rehired. That is what Mr. Voytilla indicates to me. There is no waiting period for them to be rehired.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seem to recall there used to be a waiting period when someone was given some kind of layoff or severance package. Was there one before, a waiting period?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well everybody who gets laid off gets a severance package. That is the first thing. It depends on what

degree, depending upon the job, tenure and all the rest of the stuff. I am advised by Mr. Voytilla, that there is no waiting period if you wish to be rehired, if you applied for a job and have the qualifications and got recruited. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Under the Directorate, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Yes, I would like to thank the Minister for confirming that there is no waiting period. But was there a waiting period in the past that has been removed? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, I have only been here in this particular position for the last 15 months, and I am not trying to pass that along, but Mr. Voytilla advised me not that he recollects and certainly not that I recollect. The answer would be no.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Where are we? Total operations and maintenance \$21,146,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Members for indulging with any questions in this area. I would like to indicate that I have received a lot of calls indicating that this is a good line of questioning that people would like to hear about. So it is not as though I am just asking these questions because I feel like sitting here asking questions for no reason. One thing that people have been concerned about and I know that one person told me that they were going to appeal when we still had a Personnel, staffing people or whatever they were called. I can not remember it now - personnel officers or, a person was going to appeal, but she was told not to because she would be blackballed or would have a bad reputation in the government and you would have a harder time getting a job in the future. Is there any repercussions if a person appeals to the FMBS?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

The unequivocal answer is no.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total operations and maintenance. \$21,146,000. Agreed. Thank you. Total expenditures for Directorate. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the whole question about employment with the government, and there is no waiting period as the Minister stated, and also for those individuals out there that basically are laid off or are going to be laid off, I think that the same practice should be allowed to other individuals who may be previously employed by this government through affirmative action and also having the opportunity to receive work. Within this government through an employment pool or what not, they have the same opportunities to apply on those jobs, rather than have them appointed by Ministers. What the practice is in place is to ensure that those individuals who have been previous employees of government and may have been laid off and let go and allow their names to stand. Is there a process that those individuals can be ensured that their names will be

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taken seriously when they are put on a short list so that when jobs do come available, that they are considered?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Previous employees that have been laid off, I believe is the term, get priority hiring for a period of 90 days.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total expenditures \$21,146,000. Agreed. Thank you. Page 2-31. Human Resource Management. Operation and maintenance, \$5,023,000. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the Minister to explain to me if someone is given notice that their job is ending, are they allowed to apply on another job that is closing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. We did not get part of your question. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Mr. Chairman. Yes, if a competition is already out and it is closed, and someone has heard about a job and heard that they are being laid off, are they given the opportunity to apply on that job?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

No, Mr. Chairman. If a competition is closed, it is closed. I do not think there would be an opportunity there. I do want to qualify it by saying not only is it policy but it is a desire on the part of both Mr. Voytilla and myself that we go to inordinate efforts to try to reassign staff that have been on lay off. There is no question we have to do that, and where any vacant positions are available and the staff who have been laid off are qualified, they take priority hiring. Sometimes that happens sooner, sometimes that happens later but if a competition were closed, I would suggest, Mr. Chairman it would be very difficult to intervene in a process that has already been closed. So, the answer would be no.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Human Resource Management. Total operations and maintenance. \$5,023,000. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if somebody felt this has happened to them, what would be the steps that they would take?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I think the only course of action would be a staffing appeal process. If a competition is closed, they have

been laid off, and they have not had an opportunity to apply on it, then that is the only way we could handle it. You can not open up a competition once it is closed. But again, I emphasize to you, it is certainly the desire of this government and all Ministers that those of us who have constituents who have been laid off, we make a concerted effort to make sure they get ample opportunity to apply on any new positions or any old positions that are out for competition. That is certainly our desire. I would suspect somebody fell through the crack, you know, because it is not a perfect system. The desire is to do exactly what Mr. Roland has indicated.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now what if the tables were turned and you were someone that were applying on that position, and it had closed and you had heard somebody who had received a notice of layoff, they never got a chance to apply on it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am a little confused by that question. I wonder if my honourable colleague, Mr. Floyd Roland from Inuvik, could ask the question again? How he is being instructed by his compadre, Mr. Miltenberger so I can answer it in a proper way?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, I believe Mr. Roland is asking on his own. Will you repeat the question, Mr. Roland, please?

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with you, this is my own question, I am not a puppet. I would like to rephrase to make it a little more clear for my little friend. Mr. Chairman, the question would be, if you had applied on a job and did so in the time allotted and the competition closed, and then you heard that someone who received their notice of lay off then applied on a job after it closed, what would be that person's role then, or where would they go?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is getting late so I always like to view myself as quality, not necessarily quantity. In the case that my honourable colleague alludes to, if those circumstances did occur, then it is incorrect. The employee that was effected should appeal and we will take whatever steps are necessary to hear the appeal. Absolutely.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total operations and maintenance is, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question that I will go to earlier, with a line of questioning by a number of Members here. Mr. Todd, you indicated that there would be a small amount of people who would have received a severance package or layoff notice and then been re-hired on contract or so on. I am not looking for individuals names or anything like that, but I think there would be a concern there, when we are cutting budgets and reducing, that people hearing that someone had received a lay off notice and was hired on contract would be perceived to be double dipping. As you stated, that probably does not happen. But if they are re-hired, they are re-hired in a different area, and you are saying that is probably a very small number. Could you, in a way, check this out to verify numbers and inform Members? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is important that I say again, just for clarity purposes, that it is not double dipping. I know it may be perceived as such, but the fact is it just simply is not. As long as they meet the criteria that is set under the code of conduct and ethics, and the

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compensation package under the severance package is past duties. I would be prepared to look at just how many are out there. I do not see an awful lot of that,

because I have not taken or paid a lot of attention to it. Unless it was flagrant, epidemic proportions, there would be no need to do it. I can say that I have done some work with previous employees that are better to say that here in the House, previous employees that were severance packaged to do some work for me. I think it is important that I say that so I will look into the matter and try to get some indication of the level of it. If you give me a couple of days, maybe later next week, somebody in the House can ask me a question and I would be able to respond to it. However, I think you will get a much more accurate, quantifiable, analysis of how much that it is going on when you get the contract reporting that we provide to the House on an on-going basis. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Human Resource Management. We have Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe last year we received from the Finance Minister, the exact cost for severance packages. I wonder if that is still at his fingertips.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am having some, like my honourable colleague, I do have a hearing problem in my ears and I am having some difficulty with the sound system. I wonder if my honourable colleague could repeat the question and I apologize for not being able to hear him the first time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Obviously, Mr. Todd, the hair is a little greyer than before. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was, last year Financial Management Board Secretariat supplied us with the total cost for severance packages, and I wonder if that information is still at the fingertips of the Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do not have that information with me today, but I can provide it and will provide it to my colleague in the House later on this week. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, I guess what I am getting at here is that we laid off x-number of employees, and we paid out severance packages and now the concern is coming back as to whether or not we are hiring any staff back on. I know that part of the million dollars that is being identified for the four departments that is mentioned in the budget address, suggested that there should be nine positions involved in this million dollars. I am not sure if this is nine new positions, or what. It suggests to me that we will be hiring people back on that we were laying off. I have a concern as well, as to whether or not the severance package deal was actually a money saving operation or not. I wonder if the Minister could give me a little bit of clarification on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is important that I respond in a professional way to your concerns, but I think it is also important to quantify it, and I am unable to quantify it today. I mean, what are we talking about here? Two employees? Three employees? In relationship to many being laid off who got the severance package. I agree with you, I need to find out, to quantify and I will do that as quickly as I can and it may be that the problem is not as grave as the trend of this discussion is going. If Mr. Steen is alluding to the supplementary appropriation million dollars, when he talks about the million dollars and the recruitment, I am prepared to deal with that issue when that comes forward in the House, and assure him that I will be able to answer his questions in a concise way at that time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, I used the million dollars as an example. In fact, I believe the allotment of the Members that have laid off staff and then were hiring them back on under contract. I am just trying to find out from the Minister whether in fact the severance packages were actually saving us money, or should we have just kept these people on in the first place? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Good question, Mr. Chairman, as always. I want to assure my honourable colleague that there are long term savings to this government in terms of its fiscal obligations over the long haul. It is certainly on the front end, no question. There is an expenditure that we have to incur, but the fact of the matter is that the civil service will be smaller, there will be less people, and the overall fiscal impact is a positive one, depending on what the severance was. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Human Resource Management. Operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance is \$5,023,000. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you for agreeing to allow me to speak. I have a question about the Human Resource Management in regards to contracts with employees. Is there also consideration in regards to division 1999, especially with short term contracts? Also, are these contracts on a casual basis for six months, or a year? What is the time period for these contracts are we talking about?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I think my honourable colleague is talking about the contracts as it relates to division. We do not have any contracts at this time, as it relates to division with some of our former employees. Would that be correct. Is that what my colleague is asking? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question was in relation to the time period of these contracts that we have with employees. Has the consideration in regards to division been taken into account where there is certain downsizing that may have to take place? What we do not want to do is get stuck with long term contracts when we know that, after

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division, there are certain things going to happen through transfers to the east for establishing government infrastructure. So, through that, are these contracts up to 1999, or do you exceed 1999? There may be the question of transfer, downsizing government in the west in order to establish the government in the east, so these transfers have to take place.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

If my honourable colleague is alluding to his previous line of questioning where we may have some contractual arrangements with senior managers who have had severance package and are back with us, there are no long term contractual arrangements with respect to that. If he is referring to the civil service, then there are no contractual arrangements, except the indeterminate positions they have, either through management or through the collective agreement with the UNW. I hope I answered the question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the termination of these so-called contract arrangements, the question was, if we already paid them out. Say 1999, you transfer a section of transportation to the east, but we do not want to have an obligation through a contract arrangement with a new government of the Nunavut, which they should also have the ability to establish their own contract or arrangements with their employees. Prior to 1999, we

do not want to tie the hands of the people in the east in regards to contracts.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I think I understand now a little more clearly than before. If there is a requirement to break any contractual arrangements prior to 1999, the cost associated would then be transitional costs. I think that is what my colleague is talking about.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total operations and maintenance. We are on page 2-31, Human Resource Management is \$5,023,000. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Clarification from the Minister. So those individuals who have received a compensation package and have been hired back on, that once they basically leave we are not going to turn around and compensate them again? They have already been compensated for the time period to the contract arrangements they have now, is just basically on a service day by day basis or are they also implications where we are going to have to re-compensate these individuals?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We did not quite get your conclusion. Repeat please.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was, individuals who have received a compensation package and have been hired back on through another process in this government, will we have to re-compensate them if they are let go again?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Voytilla advised me that they would only get compensation for the new period of employment and not the whole previous period of employment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

I did not get it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Todd, would you please repeat? I believe what Mr. Todd said was that they will pay only the duration of the contract. Mr. Todd, please.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I apologize. I am having difficulty with the line of questioning which is unfortunate. Let me put it this way, so my colleague can tell me whether I am wrong or not. If we have an employee with twenty years experience, and he gets a severance package, he will get that severance package based on that twenty years of experience. If we re-hire him until 1999, he will only get what is due him for that twenty-four month period. Is that where you are coming from on this one?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

That is in line with the questions I asked. The question was, we have had to re-compensate over and above the twenty years he has already put in?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

That is an important question, and the answer is no.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Picco.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Total operations and maintenance is \$5,023,000. Agreed? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we get an indication of how much of this budget is for casual wages?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd, would you provide the detail?

HON. JOHN TODD:

\$77,000, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

How many positions does that equate to?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

It depends on how many employees we need at the time and the degree of work we have done. Theoretically, it would be one and a half positions, approximately. It could be a number of positions over a short period of time, one and a half positions over a long period of time, etc. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there currently a casual position that is filled?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd.

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HON. JOHN TODD:

I am not aware there is any, I would have to double check on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What was the budget for casuals last year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Terribly sorry, Mr. Chairman. I do not have the information available to me at this time, but I will provide it tomorrow when I am here in the House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Human Resource Management. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one final thing. The Minister had indicated that there were grievances in this area. How many grievances were there last year and how many were upheld? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I just want to check the government's report here. I do not have it at my fingertips. Thank you. How many grievances were resolved? Was that the question? Forty-four grievances were resolved at the third level. There were 33 grievances sent to arbitration. The average cost of an arbitration was about \$5,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. We have only a couple of seconds to go. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not catch whether the Minister had indicated how many grievances were actually filed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

My apologies, Mr. Chairman. I will be able to provide that to my colleague tomorrow when I am before the House. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I will recognize the clock and rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order with item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. NINGARK:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Dent. Motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, meeting of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Also, Standing Committee on Social Programs at 9:00 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m. of the Ordinary Members' Caucus.

Orders of the day for Thursday, February 6, 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. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committee on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notice of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 9, Forgiveness of Debt Act, 1996-1997
 - Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 1996-1997
 - Bill 11, Loan Authorization Act, 1997-1998
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in the 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
 - Tabled Document 20-13(4), Report of the Joint Working Group on the Business Incentive Policy
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Readings of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

The House stands adjourned to Thursday, February 6, 1997 at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT