



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

Members Present

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

---O Canada

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Members. Good morning. Item 2: Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 48-13(4): Heritage Day in Canada

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. Mr. Speaker, Monday is Heritage Day. People from across Canada have chosen February 17th to celebrate our historical and cultural foundation, and to reflect upon how we can pass along our heritage to future generations.

The Heritage Canada Foundation co-ordinates Heritage Day activities across Canada. Nationally, this year's theme centres around the 500th anniversary of the landing of John Cabot in Newfoundland.

In the Northwest Territories, most local organizations have selected themes and activities which are more appropriate to their communities. For instance, the Northern Life Museum in Fort Smith is showing several exhibits, including one on noted ophthalmologist, Dr. Elizabeth Cass, who is well-known to an older generation of northerners.

The Fort Simpson Historical Society is using Heritage Day to promote its fund-raising efforts to purchase and preserve the McPherson House, which is an historical property. The Heritage Canada Foundation will soon feature the society's efforts in a forthcoming edition of its national magazine.

The Norman Wells Historical Centre is working with schools in the Sahtu region to promote an awareness of heritage. Its parent organization, the Norman Wells Historical Society, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, beginning with Heritage Day.

On Sunday, the museum in Iqaluit will be showing films on traditional Inuit life.

In Baker Lake, Heritage Day finds the community well along in its plans to have a new museum open to the public this summer.

The City of Yellowknife Heritage Committee is promoting some of its activities, including the announcement of an annual Heritage Award in its monthly newsletter.

Mr. Speaker, our ties to our culture and heritage are strong here in the North. These ties give us a sense of identity and community and help to give us confidence in our future. Heritage Day gives us all an opportunity to look to our past to help us meet the challenges of the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 49-13(4): Flag-Raising Ceremony

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Canadian Citizenship Act. When the federal Act came into force on January 1, 1947, it meant that citizens of this country were no longer British subjects. It meant married women could apply for Canadian citizenship in their own right and the Act led to the creation of a true Canadian passport.

As part of Canadians' appreciation of this special anniversary, February 10th to 17th has been designated as "Canada - Take It to Heart Week." It

offers an opportunity to celebrate our country's citizenship, symbols and heritage.

One of Canada's most widely recognized symbols is the flag. The National Flag of Canada was first raised on Parliament Hill at noon on February 15, 1965 by Prime Minister Lester Pearson. The central red maple leaf is known and respected around the world. It is a tribute to our international reputation.

In a land that is so huge, so culturally and geographically diverse, the Canadian flag is one of the things that brings us together as a nation of peoples. It inspires a feeling of pride, a sense of belonging and respect.

In recognition of this national symbol, I invite Members and the public to join me in a flag-raising ceremony at the front of the Legislative Assembly at noon today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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Member's Statement On Congratulations to Mr. Kakfwi on his Aboriginal Achievement Award

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Today, I rise to offer congratulations on behalf of the Ordinary Members to our colleague across the Chamber, Mr. Kakfwi. As you all know, Mr. Kakfwi was the recipient of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award at a ceremony in Calgary last weekend.

---Applause

MR. OOTES:

The Native Arts Foundation recognized the Member for the Sahtu for his commitment and endless work in furthering and protecting the rights of aboriginal people and all people in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, we all know of Mr. Kakfwi's strong advocacy work and the passion he shows when it comes to advancing the interests of the people of the Northwest Territories. I had the opportunity, as I am sure many other Members did last night, to watch the television

coverage of the National Aboriginal Award's ceremony. It was with a great deal of pride that we saw Mr. Kakfwi being recognized. It was moving to see Mr. Kakfwi who is, coincidentally, or I should mention dressed in his northern aboriginal dress which was very moving for us, and to be recognized for his years of work in promoting the north, aboriginal people and northerners. Congratulations to the honourable Member.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Valentine's Day Wishes

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, as all Members know, is one day of the year that all people in love across the world recognize their love for their lifelong partners. Today, of course, being Valentine's Day, over the years my wife has been a strong supporter of all my endeavours and I feel the need to have the recognition of her hard work and dedication to our family. With this in mind, I would like to wish my loving wife, and all the women across this great country of ours, a very Happy Valentine's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Valentine's Day Wishes

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, this morning since it is Valentine's Day, I also would like to wish my wife, Elisapee, and all of my kids, especially the two in Clyde River, my two daughters, Janet and Valerie, I wish them a very good and Happy Valentine's Day. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement On Senior's Fuel Subsidy

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Valentine's Day is a very special day. It is symbolized by the heart. It is a time and a day that we take a little bit of extra care and time to show other people that we cherish and love what they mean to us. People that fall into the category, Mr. Speaker, are our elders. The people that have brought us into this world and have helped build this fine land, our parents and our grandparents. Mr. Speaker, I employ the Cabinet; no, I beseech them to show the people of the north that they have a heart. A heart filled, as Mr. Todd has said so many times, with compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I turn to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and I ask him to show that beneath that fine suit beats a noble, caring heart. I ask him to stand today and say unequivocally and clearly that yes, the fuel subsidy program will be in the budget, and that yes, he will be the valentine for the elders today. Thank you.

---Laughter

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Valentine's Day Wishes

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking, in Inuktitut. I am also very happy today because it is Valentine's Day. I would like to wish Happy Valentine's to my wife in Arctic Bay, as well as to my relatives who are in Baker Lake and to all of my relatives throughout the communities in the Northwest Territories. As well, I want to wish Happy Valentine's to my colleagues here. I would like to thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy Valentine's. (Translation ends.)

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Valentine's Day Wishes

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not celebrate Valentine's Day when I was a child, but today I know about Valentine's Day and I am happy it is Valentine's Day today. I want to wish Happy Valentine's to my relatives who are here, my wife and my son. I would like to wish Happy Valentine's Day to my relatives back home, and to all the people in Igloodik, particularly to people in Pond Inlet. I want to wish Happy Valentine's Day to other people in the communities as well.

Another sad issue that I would like to share with you. There has been a death in one of the communities. I would like to say that I feel for you. As well, I want to say Happy Valentine's Day to the Member for Hay River. I want to send my condolences to the Member of Hay River, in particular. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends.)

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MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Evaloarjuk. Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement On Aklavik Alcohol and Drug Facility

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to wish everyone out there a Happy Valentine's Day.

---Applause

MR. KRUTKO:

My statement today is in regards to the community empowerment initiatives that this government is presently under, especially with the axe cutting process that we are going through, especially with alcohol and drug programs, the closure of Delta House and the problems with the Tl'oondih Healing Centre, in relation to the services that we are going to deliver in the communities, in regards to the resources that the communities will have to operate with, and the facilities that they presently operate in. In the case of the Aklavik Alcohol Action Committee, they have been renting a unit off the government of the Northwest Territories for ten years, which is currently the alcohol and drug office and also the facility where people go for treatment.

As far as empowering communities, we also have to allow the communities to have the facilities, the operation and maintenance funds and also the training to ensure that they have the proper resources in place. With that, I will be asking the Minister regarding a letter I have received from the Alcohol Action Committee and the mayor of Aklavik to try to find ways to allow the Alcohol Action Committee in Aklavik to continue to maintain and operate this facility which has been identified for sale by public tender. At the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister a question on this and if there is a possibility of allowing them to continue to operate and maintain that facility for alcohol treatment in Aklavik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Members' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement On Valentine's Day Wishes

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since today is Valentine's Day, I would like to thank and recognize my greatest supporter, my husband Tom, for letting me do my job without ever feeling guilty for not coming home for weeks at a time. Thank you, Tom, for being there with the boys, cooking meals, doing laundry and keeping the house clean and also making sure the boys finish their homework. I am very proud to have a partner who is so willing to take on so many responsibilities. To me, Mr. Speaker, this is an example of equality, a partner who is willing to share responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, to do our jobs effectively, we all need this type of support. On this special day, I would like to thank all those who have taken on extra responsibility so that their partners can do their jobs. (Translation) I would like to talk to my boys in Inuktitut. They understand the Inuktitut language so Trevor, if you are listening, I love you. I would also like to show my love to my little boy, the younger boy. (Translation ends)

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Members' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Member's Statement On Preparations for Nunavut

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I would like to say Happy Valentine's Day to Dorothy and my three little ones at home. Mr. Speaker, my statement today is on the ongoing work in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, as the day when the territory of Nunavut will become a reality draws nearer, the enormity of the tasks before us grows larger. The gap between what is expected from the new government closer to home and what is actually achievable in the time allowed, will be a great challenge to say the least. This is especially due to the amount of social, economic and educational challenges before us, coupled with the fiscal problems that our government faces today.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I see no shortage of will and energy amongst the people of Nunavut in meeting the goals and obligations of this great dream of our own government, north of the treeline. I was only 12 years old, Mr. Speaker, when I first started hearing of this great plan to one day have a government situated in Inuit homelands and controlled by our own people. At the time and to this date, to some extent, the residents of Nunavut were promised a turning point when the new government came, bringing more jobs, fewer problems, better housing, less social problems and more control. Many of these important goals are still achievable and will be achieved, to some extent, with the onset of a government closer to home, speaking the language of the majority and more control of government programs by the people.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, it will be a good challenge. This will be for a variety of reasons, the amount of money available for start-up and for ongoing operations; and the need for skills of our people required initially to take government jobs; the social problems; and the fact that expectations may have been raised to unreasonable levels.

One area that I feel a sense of responsibility to speak out on today, Mr. Speaker, is a lack of unity amongst the main groups charged with the building of Nunavut. For various reasons, the leadership of Nunavut has become increasingly divided in the last few years. It was less than two years ago that I became an MLA with the greatest intentions of making things work. Like other Nunavut leaders, I have tried not to stray from that course, but too often individual concerns, priorities and agendas are threatening our focus on the plan for Nunavut. We cannot afford to be divided at this time.

As in the past, when faced with major challenges or threats, we can survive and prosper only if we set aside differences and work together. I am appealing to all for us to sit back, reflect on our actions and choose a path that reflects cooperation, not competition, solidarity, not division and, most importantly, achieve our dream for Nunavut. All the leaders, including myself, need to reflect on our actions and positions today and how that will have an effect on the ongoing work required to reach our goals.

It is also my view, Mr. Speaker, that the largest print media in Nunavut, the Nunatsiq News, also needs to reflect on the role

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it has played in constantly highlighting and fuelling the fires of disagreements between Nunavut leaders over the last few years. Also, once again Mr. Speaker, I call upon the GNWT, all MLAs, NTI and the federal government, to rise above their differences to ensure that the progress made to date is not jeopardized. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I also call upon the NIC to assist us in making a smooth transition from planning for implementation to actual implementation along with an interim commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. I do not know if you went over the two and a half minutes. It was not timed, but I want to apologize to the rest of the Members who might have thought you went beyond the time. Members' statements. Mr. O'Brien.

Member's Statement On Passing of Baker Lake Resident Joshua Amitnak

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know it is Valentine's Day and I wish I could report good news but, unfortunately, it is regrettable that I must inform this House of another tragic death in the Hamlet of Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker, a young man by the name of Joshua Amitnak perished in a blizzard yesterday while on the land. Mr. Amitnak leaves behind a young family. Mr. Speaker, I am sure yourself and other Members of this House, will join me in offering their sincere condolences to Joshua's family in their time of most need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Archaic Government Policies

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, everyone has rules they follow. Some are laws of the land, others are personal rules. Governments also have rules. These rules come in different forms, laws, policies and guidelines. When something is important to a government, they will create a policy. Policies are supposed to give direction and purpose. They make sure everyone in government is paddling in the same direction, as the Premier has said. This government has many policies covering many different areas, such as protection of the environment, affirmative action, economic development, the Business Incentive Policy and privatization. They publish these policies for all to read.

Over the past few days, I have asked questions on the privatization policy. The answers have disturbed me. It seems we only follow the policies when we want to. It was suggested that some of the policies on the books are outdated. If they are outdated, they should be removed from the public record or revised. We are dealing with people's lives, their futures. We need some clear policy direction to guide government staff in some of these very important initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said before, a goal without a strategy is just a slogan, and policies without direction are lost within that void known as the policy book. On this Valentine's Day, let us follow the policy of love for family and friends, and for love's sake, get some good policies on the books.

(Translation) I would like to wish my wife and my children a Happy Valentine's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Valentine's Day Wishes

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I wear my happy tie because I get to go home. I get to spend some time with my family whom I dearly miss and I get to wish them in person the Happy Valentine they deserve. As Ms. Thompson has put it so eloquently about caring for those who take part in our lives and who take the place of our spaces in what we do back home. I know, at times, my wife must think that she is a single woman raising four children. She has had to do many things that I used to do at home. I hope this weekend, when I go home, I can fit back into the role of being a father and a husband, and not just a leader for the community of Inuvik in voicing their concerns. I think it is important for us, as individuals, as fathers and mothers and children of our own parents, that we go and spend time with our families the way we used to before we became so entangled in government and politics.

Mr. Speaker, I think you said it before. From time to time, we need to get away from the paper work, to get away from the meetings and take some time to once again try and feel human. To take part in activities that are dear to all of us, I am sure, in sharing activities with our families. I hope that this weekend I will try not to have too many meetings while I am home and spend as much time as possible with my children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Senior's Fuel Subsidy

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to wish a Happy Valentine's Day to everyone in the Northwest Territories and to my family, especially my wife, my sons and my mother, who was kind enough to forgive me for being late for my birthday cake the other evening.

Mr. Speaker, I would never hope to match that silver-tongued framer of phrases, Mr. Miltenberger, but we do know that Mr. Dent has caused discontent. But a new budget is a chance for a new start. I implore Mr. Dent to have a heart and to rise on Valentine's Day and say okay to the seniors' fuel subsidy.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Thomas Weshack from Pelly Bay. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Ms. Pat Thomas of the NWTTA. I wish all the teachers out there a very Happy Valentine's Day. We missed you in the House, you have not been here in a couple of days. Welcome back.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize today an old friend. Members who have served a few terms in this Assembly know his face well and new Members will get to know him quite well. Mr. Graham White.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 319-13(4): Government Policies

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on my earlier statement, I have a question for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, the government polishes and publishes and maintains a list of policies. These policies are available in electronic and written form. Some of these policies have been in place for a long time. This is not the problem. Policies give overall direction, and like laws, they should be written to stand the test of time. My question to the Premier is, can the Premier confirm that all the policies currently listed under the GNWT policy listing are valid. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 319-13(4): Government Policies

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All policies that are on the books of the Government of the Northwest Territories, that have not been struck by Cabinet direction off the books, are valid. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 319-13(4): Government Policies

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on that answer, has this government reviewed the policies to ensure that they are actually consistent with the directions and priorities set by this Assembly?. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 319-13(4): Government Policies

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members are aware, and we have talked about it previously in this Legislative Assembly as well as to Members at other committee meetings, we have committed already to review

existing policies of Government of the Northwest Territories as well as regulations. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 319-13(4): Government Policies

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question then would be why as a government have we proceeded with major initiatives without establishing clearer policies first to provide the framework for actions? My question leads into the, for example the privatization policy, that the only one I can find in the books, the only one anyone can show me, is from 1985. Why are we continuing with these policies if we are using policies from 1985 that, in the House we say are redundant, but then we quote from them? Why is this?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 319-13(4): Government Policies

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member is fully aware, we, as a government, have moved ahead on privatization initiatives with the support of the majority of Members of the Legislative Assembly of this House, and their initiatives of this government. It is very clear to the framework set out within that initiative to see what the end product will be. As far as my understanding goes, it is very clear that we have not went against any policy of this government by doing that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 319-13(4): Government Policies

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have not said that we have gone against any policy. I am not trying to imply that. All I am saying is no, I am going to be

very statesmen-like, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all I am asking is when will the Cabinet, when will the Executive Council, when will the Premier come up with a policy to guide the current privatization initiatives of this government, so that we can look at it and see which way we are going. When is he going to do

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that?. When is he going to come up with a policy for privatization for 1997 and beyond, and not go back to 1985 which some of the Ministers said was 12 years old? When are we going to come up with a new policy?. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 319-13(4): Government Policies

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have already made a commitment in this House that we will be reviewing policies and regulations of this government starting in April of this year and that work will be ongoing. This specific policy, we will take a look at it and we will review and amend it, whatever it takes to make it better reflect 1997. We will do that by June. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 320-13(4) Seniors' Fuel Subsidy

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give an opportunity to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, to clear the air and relieve the high levels of anxiety and frustration that are currently surrounding the fate of the fuel subsidy program. To show that, as a Member of Cabinet, they do, through him, have a heart. It is filled with compassion and that he can demonstrate his noble and compassionate nature by standing up today to say very clearly to all the people waiting by their wood stoves and furnaces with the fuel running low, that in fact there will be a fuel subsidy program. They will not have to fear. The Minister has heard their concerns. Can the Minister give that commitment? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 320-13(4): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to confirm that I do in fact have a heart. Mr. Speaker, I have said on more than one occasion this week, that I am committed to working with the standing committee, the Seniors' Advisory Council and Members of this House, on redesigning the program reflecting on the fiscal realities that we face. I can say that we are definitely working to ensure that all is done to make the program available to seniors in the next year. I would point out that the program for most seniors would be winding down now, because most seniors put their claims in for the program early in the year. We are talking about a program where the demands will most likely come starting next September. The budget starts April 1, 1997/98. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 320-13(4): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the Minister to consider stepping outside his role as a Member of Cabinet, when he talks in phrases such as working to ensure, which provide some comfort but little heat. To say in very simple English that yes, the fuel subsidy program will continue. Can the Minister stand and say that simply? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. In order to address a question to a Minister, you have to direct your question to that Minister. The Minister cannot step outside his role to respond to a responsibility that he holds. I can not rule the question in order. Could you rephrase your question please?

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister may have been saved by the bell, but I have a supplementary. Can the Minister say, in simple English in his role as Minister, that the fuel subsidy program will continue? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 320-13(4): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to do all that I can to warm the hearts of seniors, the Seniors' Advisory Council and the Members of the standing committee. I can not commit to do anything until my budget is approved, of course, because I do not have the funds to spend. I have committed to look for areas of savings within the budget once it is approved and to dedicate those funds to ensuring this program continues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 320-13(4): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much. Unfortunately the only that is getting heated is the air in this Chamber. The Minister is being needlessly evasive. He is being all that he can. Will the Minister commit once his budget is passed that yes, even though the fuel subsidy is not in the budget, that he will commit to the people of the NWT, to the needy elders, that the program will be continued? With a \$280 million budget he will make it happen given his noble, caring heart and his ability to handle fiscal matters with the astute way that he has demonstrated. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 320-13(4): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, perhaps we should install a device to collect the hot air and use that to heat seniors' homes. I believe that the Member is asking me a question which I have already answered. I have said that I will do everything to ensure that the program is there. It is obviously too late to reprint the budget book. It is too late to address those changes now. The

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department needs some time in order to rework areas of expenditure in the coming year, to ensure that we can find the monies to deliver that program. I will restate the commitment, that I will work with the standing committee, the Seniors' Advisory Council, my partners on Cabinet, and especially in the social envelope, to ensure that we have something to warm the hearts of seniors in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Again, to remind the Members in regard to questions, the question must not repeat an earlier question which was answered, taken as notice, or to which an answer was refused at that sitting. To remind the Members. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 321-13(4)Aklavik Alcohol and Drug Facility

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Public Works, in regards to the privatization of units and also selling off of government assets in regards to housing. In regards to a housing unit in Aklavik, housing unit number 37(007), presently it is being occupied by the Aklavik Alcohol Action Committee to deliver the alcohol and drug program for the last ten years. I would like to ask the Minister if it is possible that this unit be given to the Alcohol and Drug Committee to use and continue to operate as an alcohol and drug facility for Aklavik. I would like to ask the Minister if he is willing to look at that and see if there is a possibility of allowing that to happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 321-13(4): Aklavik Alcohol and Drug Facility

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker. There are a couple ways that the government disposes of assets. One is through the sale of assets, which is an area that the department is looking at all over the NWT, what assets we may have available for possible sale, and the other is when a department declares assets, like a building surplus, in which case the Department of Public Works and Services is asked to dispose of it, either through a sale or in some cases we have random claim contributions. I received the letter yesterday that the Member refers to. I have not had a the chance to look at it with the department, but I will do that.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 321-13(4): Aklavik Alcohol and Drug Facility

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to timing of getting back to the Aklavik Alcohol Action Committee, I believe this has been in the works for several months now, and I would like to know from the Minister, how soon can he get back to myself and also to reach the Alcohol Committee in Aklavik, so we can put them at ease in regards to the present status of the building that they rent?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 321-13(4): Aklavik Alcohol and Drug Facility

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I have asked the department for a briefing on the matter. As the Member knows, some of us will be gone over the weekend to Cambridge Bay. I would be willing to share the briefing information with the Member in the middle of next week.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 322-13(4): Negotiated Contracts

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today will be directed to the Premier of this government. Yesterday, we heard questions and concerns raised on negotiated contracts. Mr. Speaker, I believe that negotiated contracts have a time and a place. They do help companies start in communities that have little competition. In the community of Inuvik, negotiated contracts have negatively impacted on long-time northern companies, as well as aboriginal-owned companies. I would like to know from the Premier if this government has a policy that would deal with negotiated contracts in respect to the land claim groups? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 322-13(4): Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as a policy goes on negotiated contracts, the Department of Transportation does have a policy on negotiated contracts. Cabinet does have negotiated contract guidelines. In order to negotiate a contract in a community, you have to have the support of the people of that community, you have to have 100 percent northern involvement, and it has to benefit local people. Those are the guidelines in negotiating a contract in the communities. There are ones as well that come in on budget and on time. A negotiated contract is where the government sits down and facilitates it with the community people or the development corporations. The majority of them are development corporations. If you sub-tender any part of that negotiated contract, for example, if you have three trucking companies in a community to haul gravel, then you have to get prices from all three trucking companies. That is how negotiated contracts are done. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 322-13(4): Negotiated Contracts

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier inform us if this government is aware that the land claims agreements that are out there state that this government shall negotiate contracts with them? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 322-13(4): Negotiated Contracts

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HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand of existing claims that are in place, the Nunavut Agreement, the Sahtu Comprehensive Claim, the Gwich'in claim, as well as the Inuvialuit claim, is that, in no place in those claims do they say that this government has to negotiate contracts with those groups. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 323-13(4): Vacant Clyde River Health Centre

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Mr. Ng. Last year, in 1996, we opened a nursing station in Clyde River and I appreciate this very much. The old nursing station that is in Clyde River is not being used right now. It is vacant. The question I have to the Minister of Health and Social Services is, I would like to know what is going to happen to that old nursing station that is vacant? Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 323-13(4): Vacant Clyde River Health Centre

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware that a local group wants to obtain possession of the building for a community resource centre, a support centre for families in the community. We have been trying to work with them in trying to put together a proposal to facilitate obtaining the old health centre, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Enuaraq.

Supplementary To Question 323-13(4): Vacant Clyde River Health Centre

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary question. The buildings, when they are vacant for a long period of time, start to deteriorate. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services to answer that question. (Translation ends)

HON. KELVIN NG:

Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I did not catch the full question from the translation.

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) When can I get a direct answer to the question that I asked? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question that I asked the Minister concerned the old health centre. It may just deteriorate when it is not being used. I am asking the Minister, can you let me know when we can take over that old health centre? Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 323-13(4): Vacant Clyde River Health Centre

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the honourable Member clarifying it for me. What we are doing, Mr. Speaker, there is a Financial Management

Board submission that was just recently signed off by myself, that will be going to the Financial Management Board to deal with this matter in order to

have the facility turnover facilitated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 324-13(4): General Hunting License Application

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the course of this week I have had a couple of my constituents bring concerns to me regarding the applications for general hunting licenses. These individuals were members of Treaty 11 and have supplied all the necessary requirements to ensure speedy processing. These applications were submitted in December, 1996 or the first part of January, 1997. It has been at least a month since the applications were submitted. After calling to find out what is taking so long to get their general hunting licenses, the residents were told that it would take at least eight months to process. It seems to be an extra long period of time for something of this nature, considering one can pay the nominal fee for a regular hunting license and get it the same day. The same goes for your driver's license and most other permits that a person can get. My question to the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is, why does this process take so long? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 324-13(4): General Hunting License Application

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I am not certain of that, so I will have to take the question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 325-13(4): Negotiated Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier in regards to negotiated contracts. I would like this House to know that I support negotiated contracts, especially in my constituency. As a member of that constituency, I would like to make that clear. I would like to ask the Premier a question in regards to negotiated contracts. Under claims agreements, such as the Inuvialuit and the Gwich'in, there is an economic section which clearly states that there has to be economic opportunities given to those groups, no different than any other groups in the country. The Inuvialuit have had a claim for several years, in which that practise has been done. Also there has to be an account of lands or resources that are owned by that group in which, if the government is going to use or take those resources, they have to work out an economic agreement. I would like to ask the Premier, is he aware of that section of the agreement?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 325-13(4): Negotiated Contracts

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HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of that section of the agreement, word for word. But I know that, on certain parts of those agreements, our government does have some slight disagreements with aboriginal groups on the legal text and what that legal text means. At this time, what I would say is that, in Mr. Krutko's riding, we have negotiated quite a number of contracts. It was to the betterment of this government that we did do that. We got the job done and we got it done on time. We got the job done on budget. The Gwich'in people did excellent work on those contracts. They hired north and they fulfilled their part. So, we will continue to work with those Gwich'in people in that area on negotiated contracts as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 325-13(4): Negotiated Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the smaller ridings, such as the three communities I represent, Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson and Aklavik, where we have a large unemployment rate, most of these projects are the only economic opportunities we have. Without these negotiated contracts to those communities, without being eaten up by larger centres as Yellowknife and Inuvik, I do not think we would have the opportunity to negotiate those contracts. I think there should be a policy in place to ensure there is economic stability in those ridings which have a large unemployment rate, to continue to sustain this work and the resources and just leave that money in the communities. I would ask the Premier to ensure that there are those kind of protection mechanisms for those constituents and the communities who have a large unemployment rate.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 325-13(4): Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is one of the main reasons that this government does negotiate contracts and a fundamental principle is that we believe it is good government. If you are going to spend \$100,000, \$200,000, a million dollars, in a constituency or in a small community, the majority of that money, as much as possible, should stay there. The best way of doing that is to negotiate the contracts with those organizations in the community or businesses that live in that community. They can get the best use out of their dollar in that community. We have started doing that two terms ago and, possibly up to three terms ago, the government started doing that. From that, we have seen people start to take better control of their lives, a lot more self pride. When you walk into those communities, you see the pride in the faces of workers. I was in your riding in Fort McPherson when I was the Minister of DPW, and you see it in the people. You see it as plain as day. They are building that building, their company is running the show, their foremen are from Fort McPherson. They are the ones that are benefitting from that government spending and I know, from travelling throughout the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker, that in many, many of our small communities, people wait. They wait

all winter to get that job the next summer and they depend on their people to negotiate the contract so that they do get that work. We do not have an influx from the big regional centres or from southern Canada, workers coming in and taking jobs from local people. As far as I am concerned, we are doing the right thing. It is good government to negotiate contracts in the communities and we will continue to do so. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 325-13(4): Negotiated Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Everybody wants to go on a witchhunt on this one. I would like the Premier to consider looking at the contracts that have been let go and seeing how many resources have been used from the region. I will use McPherson's school for an example. Presently at the school, we have people from Dowling which is operated out of Tuktoyaktuk. We have people from McDonald Brothers out of Inuvik. From Tuktoyaktuk, we use Arctic Tire to do the pilings for the school. All the plumbing and electrical work is done locally. The majority of the foremen are aboriginal people who are building this school. That was the emphasis on negotiated contracts. Yet, you hear in this House where people are getting these contracts, bringing people in from southern Canada, the operators, the equipment and everything. Will the Premier look at that matter and see exactly what percentage of these human resources are being used from the north versus southern Canada, especially with the companies in Yellowknife?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 325-13(4): Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the previous Assembly, I was the Minister of DPW, as well as the Housing Corporation, and was in charge of the majority of the contracts for this government. Let me assure Members of this Legislative Assembly and the general public, when this government negotiates a contract,

whether it be with the Gwich'in Development Corporation or Fort Good Hope or any other community, a negotiated contract is scrutinized more than any other contract in this government. We make sure that when you negotiate a contract with this government, you follow the principles that we lay out and you will hire north, you will hire local people. If you cannot find them at the local level, contractors or workers, you go to the regional level. Then you go to the territorial level. If you want to bring anybody in from southern Canada, it comes to my level, as a Minister. I was a Minister responsible for DPW and I remember making it very clear to a small community when they say, "We cannot find a foreman, we have to bring one in from the south." "Tough luck, then we go to public tender. You find your foremen in the north, you find your people in the north." Northerners will work with northerners on the negotiated contracts. They benefit everyone, especially the local people. So, they are scrutinized to the greatest extent and they are pure benefits that are real benefits to local people. That is what negotiated contracts do, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 325-13(4): Negotiated Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There seems to be a misunderstanding between this government and the land claims agreements. Maybe what we should do, once and for all, is to clarify that misunderstanding and sit down with the aboriginal organizations and the federal government to go through those sections of the agreement so that everybody understands exactly.

(inaudible)

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 325-13(4): Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the greatest respect to the Member, I believe that he is asking me for legal opinion. We, as a government, are working and will be at the table in self-government negotiations with his people as well other people throughout the Northwest Territories that have settled claims. The Minister responsible will look into that issue. But just as a fundamental principle, it is good government to negotiate contracts. We do not feel, as a government, that it is a legal obligation to claims. It is good government that we leave as much dollars as possible at the community level. We get the community to benefit from contracts that are at the communities. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Oral questions. The two Ministers are back. Mr. Henry.

Question 326-13(4): Plan for Western Constitutional Development

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today, Mr. Speaker, is to Mr. Antoine, the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs. The Minister presented the document in the House a couple of days ago, Federal Support for Western Constitutional Process. The Minister acknowledged that we had a very crowded agenda. Some of the areas he identified as having priority was establishment of Nunavut. I am hoping that he also meant to talk about the establishment of the new western territory also. He talked about negotiating formula financing for both territories, streamlining government in accordance with fiscal restraint, continuing to negotiate aboriginal land claims, and then development of the constitution. I could not agree more with the Minister that it certainly is a very crowded agenda. In regards to the continuation of developing a constitution and the process that has been laid out, I would like the Minister to give some reassurance to the people of the Northwest Territories that there is a plan in place, in the event that a constitution is not passed through the federal Parliament, or first of all passed by the people of the Northwest Territories and then the federal Parliament, prior to 99. I believe that there are areas that have to be taken into consideration regardless whether we have a constitution or not, for example the boundaries commission. Can the Minister inform the House and more particularly the

people of the Northwest Territories, the western territory, that there is a plan in place in the event that a constitution is not ready by 99? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 326-13(4): Plan for Western Constitutional Development

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the honourable Member that as we move along in the development of the constitution here in the western NWT, that we have to look at all options. We are being realistic about the whole process. We know that our agenda is very crowded. At the present time, we have made it known that after meeting with the federal Minister of DIAND, Mr. Ron Irwin, that he is going to be involved with his department in helping us here in the north to try to move ahead with this agenda. There are aboriginal people on side on this whole process, aboriginal summit leaders. We have an agenda to go ahead and move ahead with the continuation of development of this constitutional development here in the west. At the same time, being realistic, we have to look at the option that we are assured if this does not go ahead, we could fall on the status quo. This has always been there. As we move ahead with the other option, we will also be developing this option as we go along. This rolling draft will also take into consideration the different options that may arise if things do not happen the way we hope it does. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 326-13(4): Plan for Western Constitutional Development

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that. Do I take it, from the Minister's comments, that he will be advancing a plan in particular for a boundaries commission because that is one particular item that will have to be dealt with regardless whether there is a new constitution or the status quo? Do I take it from the Minister's comments that he will be advancing a plan to ensure that those extremely important housekeeping issues are dealt with in the event that

we do not have a constitution? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 326-13(4): Plan for Western Constitutional Development

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am taking the position that we are going to have a constitution here in the west. I am going on that commitment. At the end of the day, if we do not achieve it, I think that through the development of the constitutional process, there are going to be elements within this constitution that will be acceptable to the people in the north. Yes, part of the plan is to look at all the housekeeping issues such as the boundaries

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commission that has to be done prior to the division of April 1, 1999. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 327-13(4): Staffing the Nunavut Government

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for division. Mr. Speaker, with the advent of Nunavut and division coming in the next two years, can the Minister advise this Chamber and all affected GNWT employees, as to what opportunity these employees will have in reference to potential employment in Nunavut? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 327-13(4): Staffing the Nunavut Government

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe in the budget address, I tried to outline what the GNWT's position

was as it relates to staff in Nunavut that exists there. We believe that these jobs should automatically be transferred to the new Nunavut government effective April 1, 1999. With respect to headquarter jobs that would be reassigned or reallocated to the Nunavut area, our position is subject to article 23 of the affirmative action policy that there should be a hiring priority for people in the headquarters currently in Yellowknife that would move to Nunavut. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 327-13(4): Staffing the Nunavut Government

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, how will this preference or priority affect or coincide with those individuals in Nunavut that are anticipating this potential employment, that are residents presently in Nunavut? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 327-13(4): Staffing the Nunavut Government

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I think that there is a desire in everybody, including this House and certainly our partners in the division issue, NTI, that we would like to see more aboriginal content to the civil service, particularly at the senior management level. I think it would be fair to say that we have not been as successful as we should over the years. However, the position that we have taken with respect to headquarters staff is that there is some obligation, never mind the practicalities of having people that know the job, but there is some obligation for us to promote the fact that our staff in Yellowknife who would theoretically move to Nunavut in headquarters positions, should be given the priority in relationship to recruitment. It would have to be done as long as it was done in the context of article 23 of the claim which talks about the affirmative action requirements that the Nunavut government has to have; that is, it is expected that the new

Nunavut government's civil service would reflect the population. demographics, representation. Thank you, my colleague for Thebacha. It would represent the representative components of the populace in Nunavut. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 327-13(4): Staffing the Nunavut Government

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not trying to be difficult here, but I am just trying to find out what level of comfort the Inuit or the residents of Nunavut will have. I think that we know that, as it relates to article 23. The other question is what level of comfort can the GNWT employees have as relates to article 23? We say a preference. What actually does that mean? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 327-13(4): Staffing the Nunavut Government

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, you know this obviously is a sensitive issue and it is a very important one as it relates to people's livelihoods, et cetera. I think that the original requirement for further discussion on this issue, and you are absolutely correct, it is our intention to discuss this further with the parties, NTI and, of course, with the interim commissioner. The interim commissioner will ultimately have the legislative authority to enter into collective bargaining agreements with the interim civil service that will be required. I think that it requires a little more careful consideration by all parties. Now, I am talking specifically about the headquarter's staff. I think that is what my colleague is alluding to. Again, I have to be clear. Our position is clear and I do have heart. Our position is clear when it comes to the current residents or employees in Nunavut. They fundamentally must be transferred to the new Nunavut government. On the headquarter's side, there is a requirement for further discussion by the parties. We need to embrace the interim commissioner whoever he or she may be, and move

forward to seeking a satisfactory resolve to this important issue. One, to the staff that are currently there and two, quite frankly, to ensure that the operations and the mechanics of government will be up and running on April 1, 1999 to ensure the financial system that I know is well in place, to ensure that the operations of government run. I am confident that all parties will see the need for a practical approach to this issue. I see that I have everybody's attention.

MR. SPEAKER:

Could we have some order here, please.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am sure that we will be able to reach...

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to remind the Members that displaying things of any nature in this Chamber is not allowed. I would like ask that the Members have their documents on their table, but not to display anything.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd. Your response.

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Further Return To Question 327-13(4): Staffing the Nunavut Government

HON. JOHN TODD:

Maybe, I went on too long. But I will try to keep it short. I have 16 minutes. What I am trying to say, Mr. Speaker, is that we need to continue to discuss how we are going to provide an appropriate approach to the transition for headquarter's staff from Yellowknife to Nunavut, to Iqaluit which has been designated as the capital. That is our intent here. However, we recognize this is important to say publicly, that there is a desire, understandably so, and there is understanding that the new civil service under the new Nunavut government has to be representative of the population that is there. That is what I wanted to say. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I want to thank the Members for their cooperation. Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 327-13(4): Staffing the Nunavut Government

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the point of my question is, with the limited time that we have left before division, to make sure that all parties know exactly where they stand and more importantly, I would like to ask the Minister, is this issue going to be discussed at the Cambridge Bay meeting this weekend? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 327-13(4): Staffing the Nunavut Government

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, staffing for the Nunavut government is an issue and I would assume that it is going to be reviewed by all parties at the table on Sunday and Monday. It will be an issue. We are looking for an appropriate consensus by all parties as to how we move forward in a very practical way. That is my intent as the chair of the division committee, recognizing the obligations not only morally but the legal obligations that we have to meet the requirements of a representative civil service of the people of Nunavut.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear! Hear!

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 328-13(4): Housing Maintenance in Nanisivik

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. I would like to ask him about the Arctic Bay Housing Association in my constituency which is maintaining staff units in Nanisivik which is 20 miles away from Arctic Bay. I would like to know if the housing

association is being budgeted to travel, or the maintainers to travel to Nanisivik, to maintain the units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

Return To Question 328-13(4): Housing Maintenance in Nanisivik

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I will have to check on the actual situation in Nanisivik, but the arrangements we have made in the past year in different communities is that the Housing Corporation through the local housing authorities, will maintain staff houses on behalf of the government through an arrangement with FMBS. In most cases, the funding has been allocated and given to the Housing Corporation and then passed on to the LHO.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 328-13(4): Housing Maintenance in Nanisivik

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is that the materials for LHOs is limited, because of the sealift that came in from last year. What will happen to the materials that are needed to maintain the units in Nanisivik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 328-13(4): Housing Maintenance in Nanisivik

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that if there are extra materials required by the community, because materials have been used to maintain staff houses, we will find a way to make sure that the required materials are replaced through the Housing Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 329-13(4): Policy on Negotiated Contracts

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this morning I asked a question on negotiated contracts. I do not want anybody to get the wrong idea here. I am not on a witch hunt. I am not after anybody. But I wanted to ask a question on negotiated contracts if this government had a policy? The Premier stated there are guidelines. But, I would like to know if the Premier is willing to look at setting up a policy that would cover all departments of this government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 329-13(4): Policy on Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In March of last year, the Department of Public Works made a presentation to Caucus on negotiated contracts and a possible principle and possible policy that could be coming forward for an overall government policy on negotiated contracts. The Department of Transportation does have a negotiated contract policy in place. While we were working on this negotiated contract

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policy, the whole issue of article 24 came into being on the Nunavut claim. We had to switch our people from working on the negotiated contract policy over to working and addressing the article 24 issue and how this government sees the implementation of article 24. So, we have had that work done recently. These people, the Minister of DPW as well as Housing Corporation and the Minister of Transportation, with Mr. Kakfwi, the Minister of RWED, are overseeing and coordinating initiatives of this government. He has to be involved on economic initiatives, so that we can commit to this House that we will dust this file off and get back to working on an overall policy of negotiated contracts.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 329-13(4): Policy on Negotiated Contracts

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier inform us of what time line we would be looking at for bringing this back to this Assembly? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 329-13(4): Policy on Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Exactly where the work and the amount of work that has been done on this issue is at, I am not quite sure. I think it would be safe to say by the fall. But I do know that once we get out of this Legislative Assembly, once the budget is passed and the capital budget is passed, then that capital budget would have to be implemented fairly quickly in order to do those projects this summer. Some of those projects would have to be negotiated. We would probably miss this building season. I would say that by fall, we would have that policy done. When we work on that policy, we will work on it as well with the appropriate committee. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 330-13(4): Ministers' Attendance During Question Period

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. During question period each day, Mr. Speaker, I think that there are a number of times, at least I have found, that you have to have different questions ready because a Minister that you wish to direct a question to is not in the House all of the time. Mr. Speaker, I believe that is an extremely important time for the people of the Northwest Territories to be able to hear positions of this government on policies and directions that they have taken. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier is, will he direct his Ministers to be in the House for question period? I realize that

sometimes they are travelling. But at a time when they are here, to schedule their meetings and so forth around the question period in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 330-13(4): Ministers' Attendance During Question Period

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have already directed Ministers. Ministers are all in the House, unless they are travelling on duty, for question period. Sometimes in committee of the whole if that Minister is not up in front of the committee, those Ministers are allowed to have meetings scheduled. But if a Minister is absent or going to be absent from the House, I always say it the same day that they are travelling. Other than that, unless somebody gets ill or else the call of mother nature, they will be in the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 330-13(4): Ministers' Attendance During Question Period

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the point I was trying to make was just question period. I think that there are some of your Ministers that are 100 percent faithful at being here during question period. I am talking about, subject to nature breaks, that during question period that the Premier direct his Ministers to be in the House during question period as long as they are in town. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 330-13(4): Ministers' Attendance During Question Period

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I have said earlier, I have instructed the Ministers to be in the House, and I am talking about question period other than the call of mother nature or if they are not feeling very well. Then

they are allowed to go home or whatever just like any other person would be. If they are not in the House, I will have them thoroughly dealt with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 331-13(4): Need For a Western Constitution

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine. The subject of the constitution has arisen again in the last week in some public discussions. I believe that in the South Slave, it was the subject of discussion at a leaders' meeting. The Town of Hay River has passed a motion stating that the constitution should be delayed until after division. I wonder if the Minister could tell us what the urgency is at this particular time considering the amount of work facing this Legislature with division and some other matters that of an urgent nature, what the necessity is to complete, and what is driving the need to achieve a new constitution by April 1, 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 331-13(4): Need For a Western Constitution

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HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from the beginning of this constitution process that we undertook to proceed with, we made a commitment as a government to proceed with the development of the western constitution. There was support from the western Caucus on this, the Aboriginal Leaders' Summit gave direction, the Constitutional Development Steering Committee over two years ago at a conference directed us to proceed with development of this constitution. At the same time we have been in a bilateral process for self-government development with the aboriginal First Nations. There was direction as well from the Aboriginal Leaders' Summit over a year ago here in Yellowknife to proceed with this constitutional development process.

Last October, upon tabling the document, we wanted to proceed immediately to go ahead and make

consultation visits to the communities to explain the package at that time and to get feedback. Because of funding restraints, we were not able to do it, but now there is commitment by this government and the federal government to fund this process. As it was Saturday, upon meeting with the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Honourable Ron Irwin, we have had a commitment from him that he would like to see a made-in-the north constitutional package. At the same time, he has committed his officials to work directly with us and address all the concerns that have been raised to date and some concerns that may be raised during consultation process. There is a commitment from the federal government to proceed in that direction. I think there is still a commitment from the Members in this House to proceed. I know that there are different opinions that have been expressed lately that we should not proceed with this. My position is that we continue with this. The urgency is that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 331-13(4): Need For a Western Constitution

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My further question is when the consultation process takes place, if the Minister could assure that the individuals coming on the consulting have a clear indication to the public of how the ratification process will take place regarding a new constitution? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 331-13(4): Need For a Western Constitution

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, the assurance that I could give is that our staff is currently looking at the different ratification processes which may be considered. At the time of the consultation visits into the communities, these processes will be explained very careful and clearly to the people in the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 331-13(4): Need For a Western Constitution

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could assure us that the group doing the consultation and the information and the presentation, will be consistent throughout the western territory when the consultations take place, and that we have consistency throughout the western territory in preparation of the report? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 331-13(4): Need For a Western Constitution

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Constitutional Working Group have discussed this that when we develop a team to go into the communities that there be a uniform approach. The information that is going out is consistent with each other and that the reporting of the outcome of these constitutional processes be consistent as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question period is over. We will take a short break. I would like to invite the Members to go outside to celebrate the recognition of the Canadian flag. We will recess till 12:30.

---Break

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come to order. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Return to Written Question 2-13(4) asked by Mrs. Groenewegen, and responded to by the Minister of Education Culture and Employment concerning family planning programs.

Family Planning Programs

This is in reply to a question asked by Mrs. Groenewegen on January 28, 1997, about programs the Department has in place to assist our young people in the area to sound family planning decisions.

Students in the Northwest Territories need the skills to make sound personal decisions for themselves and their families. These skills include getting along with others, a personal sense of control, the ability to cope with stress, minimising health risks, and maintaining positive relationships with family and friends. Topics intended to assist young people making sound personal decisions are covered in NWT school programs from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

School Health Program K-9

In the early grades, students learn about cultural traditions, male/female roles, family decision making and responsibility. Junior secondary school students are presented with themes such as "Teen Decisions" in the Family Life unit, which deals

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with learning effective assertiveness skills in dealing with sexual pressures; adolescent pregnancy and maternal health; and identifying positive lifestyle practices and responsible behaviour for young adolescents. The grade 9 "Families" theme explores effective parenting and teen decision-making. Central to the School Health Program is the development of mental and emotional well-being and positive self-esteem. Students learn how to deal with relationships, cope with peer pressure, and make sound personal decisions and life-style choices.

Senior Secondary School Programs

NWT senior secondary schools (Grades 7-12) currently have access to Family Planning programs through Career and Technology Studies (CTS) and the Career and Life Management curriculum (CALM). The CTS Community Health strand deals with Family Planning. This strand helps students promote healthy living and disease prevention. The importance of the family and community well-being is investigated. Students examine family structures, roles and responsibilities involved in meeting the demands of today's society. They study family patterns from the past and determine how these influence family life now and in the future.

The Career and Technology Studies and the Career and Life Management programs provide opportunities for students to:

- develop and use knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to assume a responsible and holistic approach to healthy living
- enhance personal, family and community well-being by promoting healthy lifestyles
- review existing social, physical, economic and cultural conditions affecting the wellness of individuals, families, and communities
- demonstrate critical thinking skills, responsible decision making, and management skills in dealing with personal and community health care
- study topics related to the healthy development and care of individuals
- become knowledgeable and responsible healthy consumers

Skills for Healthy Relationships (1997-98)

An NWT adaptation of the Ontario comprehensive sexuality education program "Skills for Healthy Relationships" will be going into our schools at the junior high level for the start of the 1997/98 school year.

It is a program about sexuality education that emphasizes knowledge acquisition and skill development through such teaching strategies as cooperative learning, peer leaders, role playing, video scenarios, and parent involvement. The varied student activities provide the basis for responsible, health-wise decision making.

The four units making up the program are: AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Information, Responsible Behaviour, Safer Sex and Health Enhancing Supports. Units are comprised of activities which may be completed as a class, or by working in small groups with peer leaders. Additional activities are available for completion with the students' parents or guardians. An NWT-produced parent video, "Your Turn To Do The Talking", provides parents/guardians with the information on STDs including HIV/AIDS,

shares with them the information about sexuality students are receiving in school, and encourages them to talk to their teens about healthy relationships.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motions. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 12: An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Denendeh, that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the schedule to the Student Financial Assistance Act to increase the maximum aggregate of the principle amounts that may be outstanding in respect of all loans made under the act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question is being called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 12 has had second reading and according to either bill that stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration of committee of the whole in bills and other matters. Bill 8, Committee Report 2-13(4), 3-13(4), 4-13(4), with Mr. Ningark in the chair. I will put the House in committee of the whole until they are ready to report progress.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to call the committee to order. We have number of items under item 19, consideration of committee of the whole in bills and other matters. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will continue with Bill 8, Appropriation Act, and Committee Report 4-13(4), Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development, Report on the 1997/98 Main Estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we have the concurrence of the committee that we will deal with the items as called? Thank you. We are on page 10-10 of the 1997/98 main estimates, corporate services. Honourable Minister of Transportation, would you like to bring in the witnesses here?

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we have the concurrence of the committee? The honourable Minister will bring in the witnesses. Agreed? Thank you. Proceed please. Thank you. Can we have some order here in the House please? For the record, Mr. Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses to the committee.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have Bob Doherty as deputy minister for Department of Transportation. I have Raj Downe. She is the director of finance and administration with the Department of Transportation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are reviewing the Department of Transportation, 10-10, corporate services. Operations and maintenance. Total operation and maintenance is \$7,970,000. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my questions will be directed towards the policy and planning of the department as it applies to access roads. Mr. Chairman, yesterday we heard comments from some of the Members as to the benefits from this program. If I may preambule a little, Mr. Chairman, I

believe Mr. Erasmus, Member for Yellowknife North, was referring to the Ingraham Trail as not being quite up to the standards of a highway and therefore was just a trail.

Mr. Chairman, where I come from a trail could also be classified as an access road, and I noticed that this trail over, the past number of years has been heavily used by fisherman, because there is a lot of fishing going on along that trail. I also noticed that there is a lot of hunting going on that trail and this is evident by the fact that there were some problems with people concerned about their safety there was so much hunting on that trail.

On the other hand, we have Mr. Henry, Yellowknife South, saying that we should not spend any money on these access roads that are just for hunting and fishing. I am getting a mixed message. I am sure the department is getting mixed messages as to where they should be directing their funding. Now, in my area, my community talks in particular, we have been after the government department for consideration of an access road which would serve more than just fishing and hunting purposes.

We look at it as an access road from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk. It is actually an access road to the Beaufort Sea and all the resources in the Beaufort Sea. We also look at it from the point of view that once the new territories are established, the Beaufort Sea is going to be the only seaport this territory has. We feel there should be a lot of priority put on what we call the access road from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk. In that regard, I would like to ask the Minister if he could possibly identify to the committee how they prioritize their funding for this most popular program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think the question is a general nature of how do we prioritize access roads. Mr. Chairman, the access roads are more or less based on first come, first serve basis. Over the years, the amount of resources that we allocate the program has steadily grown. As a result, we put out the first come, first served basis. As we finish a program, we move on. Basically, that is what it is based on. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We have Mr. Steen, Mr. Ootes, and Mr. Enuaraq on the list that wanted to ask questions. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman. This first come-first serve basis, where do you start? From the Beaufort or from this end?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you. We more or less try to be fair and equitable, Mr. Chairman, in this regard. The communities that are receiving this program, or are in the capital plan to receive this program, are perhaps all over the different areas. It is not from one end or the other. It is not from the Beaufort or from the south here. It is generally from all over, in the high Arctic, in the eastern Arctic as well as communities in the west territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Corporate services. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to let the department know that I am in full support of this program. If there can be more funding identified in the future for this program I would appreciate it if he put my community on that list. I would like to ask one or two questions in regards to management. I presume management means and includes PYs. I would like to ask the Minister, how many project officers he presently has in Nunavut and where they are located?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. The honourable Minister for Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I did not get the question very clearly. Is the honourable Member asking how many project officers we have for access road programs, or is it a general question of how much is in the west and how much is in the east? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On the list we have Mr. Steen, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Enuaraq, and Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, I am going to repeat my question, so I hope that you do not cross me off your list there. How many project officers does the department have in Nunavut, in the eastern Arctic, and where are they located?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. At this point you are supposed to have four questions, but I will give you one credit. You will have three questions at this point. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you. There are three project officers in the Nunavut territory and they are in Rankin Inlet. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Minister feel confident that the department can carry out its mandate with the number of project officers it has?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the intention of this department was to staff more positions in the east. Upon request of the committee, we put that on hold until we figure out how to proceed from here. According to our plans, we hope to have three more project officers in the east in this 1997/98 fiscal year and a further four in the following year, in 1998/99. This is the plan for staffing for division. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Final supplementary, for the time being, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have seen, over the winter, where DPW is actually advertising a contract that was under the responsibility of Transportation. Their explanation given was that Transportation did not have any project officers to carry out the job in Rankin Inlet. Now I hear from the Minister that he has three. Could the Minister explain why that job was taken over by DPW rather than Transportation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are some projects that the Department of Public Works has taken on behalf of the Department of Transportation. There are a few. If the honourable Member could be more specific, perhaps we could answer, very specifically, to his request We have three project officers in the east, and if we need additional project officers, then we probably send project officers from the headquarters in Yellowknife into the areas where the department is handling the projects themselves. Again, there are some projects that the Department of Public Services is doing on behalf of the Department of Transportation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Corporate services. We have Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some comments and then a question. Mr. Steen made reference to the Ingraham Trail as an access road and the fact that it is regarded as a highway. It is Highway 4. I want to point out that there are many residents that live on that particular route. Additionally, it is a tourist resort area. There is a lot of tourism on that road in the summertime and it is a road to resources as well. So it is a multi-use highway. It is not a one purpose road, a small access road. My question is for the Minister. Considering the amount of traffic over the next couple of years that will be on the Ingraham Trail because of the development taking place north of Yellowknife through, first of all, BHP and, in all likelihood, another diamond mine, the Diavik project. So we will see very, very heavy traffic, both on the Mackenzie Highway and the Ingraham Trail. It has been a concern

expressed before, about the safety on both those particular stretches; Rae to Yellowknife and Yellowknife on the Ingraham Trail. I wonder if the Minister could tell us if he has budgeted any funds in the coming years for the upgrading of Highway 4?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. I should have reminded Mr. Steen that the highway, under Transportation, is on page 10-18. Mr. Ootes, can you wait until we get to that particular page activity?.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, and thank you for pointing that out to me, I will wait.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We have Mr. Enuaraq. Mr. Ootes, are you still on? Okay, Mr. Enuaraq. Thank you.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Qujannamiik. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel we do not really have any comments at the moment. I would like to go line by line, class by class. (Translation ends)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Here we are, in fact, on line by line, on the corporate services. Line by line, on page 10-10. Okay? Activity by activity. Are you going to ask a question, Mr. Enuaraq, on page 10-10 at this time? No? Thank you. Corporate services, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if there had been any new people hired in the human resources area since the last budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Under management, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No new personnel from outside the department have been hired to fill the positions of human resources. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Corporate services Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to indicate that I have to ask this question every time we get to a new area, because I had tried to get this information when the Premier was up so he could do the overall, but he indicated that it would be better to get it from each department. So I will have to spend a considerable amount of time, every time we get to a new department, trying to find out whether there have been new people added and whether those people were from the Personnel Secretariat. However, since there were no new people added, at this time I have no more questions in this area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Corporate services. Operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance is \$7,970,000. Agreed? Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the department a few more questions regarding the project that was taken over by DPW in Rankin Inlet. Mr. Chairman, going through the department's budget, both DPW and Transportation, the projects are identified along with the

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personnel that carried out these projects. I find it confusing as to why one department would have to find it necessary to take on the responsibilities of another department. We are not just talking about taking on the work. DPW actually tendered that contract. My question to the Minister is, was it shortage of personnel? What was the reason that DPW had to do this job for Transportation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I am informed that we are talking about project management under this corporate services, as long as the honourable Member does not swerve away from the topic corporate services. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Transportation gets into road construction and so forth. In that area, the department continues to do the projects themselves and in areas where we are dealing with buildings, the Department of Public Works and Services has their mandate to do

those projects. In these cases, the Department of Public Works and Services take on the building, and that is probably what the honourable Member is making reference to. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Corporate services. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, I believe the contract that was tendered stated that it was for parking lights facilities, it was for snow fencing, et cetera. Now these are not part of buildings. This is part of the Department of Transportation's responsibilities in regards to airports. Again, I ask the Minister if he could give me an explanation as to why DPW has taken on Transportation responsibilities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in this case the Department of Public Works and Services does certain different projects on behalf of the Department of Transportation because it is their mandate. In this case, as building. In some cases there are other projects where we do not have the resources, then we have the Department of Public Works and Services do this type of project for us. We need to know exactly which project it is, so that we could get the right type of information for the honourable Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Corporate services. Operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance is \$7,970,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total expenditures for this activity, \$7,970,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 10-11, airports. Operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance is \$24,975,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I should have been in my chair. 10-12, detail of capital airports. Buildings and works headquarters. Total region, \$365,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Building and works, Fort Smith region. Total region, \$2,120,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

For the record we are on Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997-98. Department of Transportation, detail of capital, airports, page 10-12, buildings and works, Fort Smith region. Total region, \$2,120,000. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the concern by the committee in relation to the \$2 million for Fort Smith, because of the number of concerns and number of constituents that have raised the issue about upgrading their airports or even repairing airports, the question was asked by the committee regarding the \$2 million that will be spent to resurface airports, which we see already have a hardtop on them. We were wondering if the department could let us know why is it the money is not being spent to upgrade airports in regards to the safety factor, such as length of airports or lighting? My question to the Minister is, in this particular case, why are we spending money on perfect airports which already have a hard surface, in regards to building 5,000 feet runways versus the communities which do not have a

legal size airport? I would like to ask the department why is the direction of the department going to repair existing hardtop airports?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, all airports in the North are legal size, therefore they are all certified by Transport Canada. Most of them are. I just want to clarify that. Secondly, all paved surfaces deteriorate over time from heavy use. The surfaces then eventually become unsafe for aircraft operations. The life expectancy of a paved airstrip surface is about 20 to 25 years. There was an overlay in Fort Smith in 1984. There are a lot of cracks created in this airport and defects that are very visible in the airstrip pavement in the Fort Smith airport. A routine check, by filling and patching these cracks, can no longer guarantee a safe runway surface. Therefore, a full overlay must be completed for safety reasons. I believe this particular project has been delayed in previous years, the department informed me, and it was determined that the best course of action to take, at this time, is not to have this airport deteriorate any further and to go ahead and do the overlay project. As a result of that, the decision was made to go ahead with this project. I know there is concern that there are quite a few communities that have been requesting their airstrips be lengthened, and we are putting in lights where they are required. As a result, the airports that are functioning in the north, if they are certified, that is because they are of legal size. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the whole safety question, it is in relation to Transport Canada changing the regulations which are going to be coming into effect in the next couple of years. There is a lot of concern by the airline industry relating to the length of airports which, I believe, through that change, will have an enormous effect as far as maintaining the upkeep of those airports. That was the point we were addressing. The question to the Minister when we asked for materials from the

resource committee, was the question about usage at airports and also the safety factor. Which ones have been graded as safe? Which ones have been having problems? There are concerns at airports in communities that they want lengthened airstrips so that they can have more aircraft in there, larger aircraft to bring in goods and services, especially to a lot of the isolated communities. I think that was some information we asked for from the department and I do not believe we received that to date.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there was a letter sent to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Resource Management, Mr. David Krutko, dated January 7. In there, we provided the information in a number of areas that the committee requested the department to provide. So, that information has been sent. We also attached the information with regard to route maps for major, scheduled air carriers, flights and the passenger statistics to all the communities. I think that the information requested by the committee when we did the review of this department, we feel has already been provided. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the question I asked about Transport Canada, I do not believe the Minister answered that portion of it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in regards to the regulation that was developed by Transport Canada about the length of airports, that has been developed recently. Upon the request of Members of this House and upon the request of communities and the airline industries in the north, we lobbied Transport Canada and the Government of Canada and were able to get an exemption from the regulations. We can continue to use our airports in the

north, using the existing air carrier of choice. We have an exemption until the year 2010. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. I am on total region, Fort Smith region, \$2,120,000. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the study, the Minister has taken the usage of the Fort Smith airport compared to, say, other airports in Arviat, Baker Lake. What is the number of usage of those airports versus the one in Fort Smith, in regards to traffic?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the specific question that the honourable Member is asking is the difference between Fort Smith and Arviat, I believe. The aviation statistics that we have from 1991 to 1995, aircraft movements in 1995 in Fort Smith is 6,566, whereas in Arviat there were 1,374. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Krutko. Your fifth question.

MR. KRUTKO:

In regards to the statistics, how many of those are water bombers coming and going from that airbase?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have a lot of information, but that is one type of information we do not have right at our fingertips. We will have to get back to the honourable Member on that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. I have Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question on this particular topic also has to do with the overlay of runway in Fort Smith. We took this program over from Transport Canada. Can the Minister advise us what priority did Transport Canada have on this before the GNWT took it over?. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when the negotiations were underway, we negotiated the operations and maintenance costs of these airports along with the future capital costs that we foresee happening with the airports. I am sure that all capital was taken into consideration. We tried to get the most from the feds during negotiations. I am sure this was part of the deal, but we need to get more information on this for the honourable Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would be interested to know. The Minister, I believe, is committed to providing that information as to where the priority for this project would have been on the Transport Canada agenda. He has told us of the number of take-offs and landings, and that is good information. Can the Minister tell us, the mainliners, as they are referred to, the jets of NWT Air and Canadian, do they presently use Fort Smith? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Mr. Chairman. We do not have that information right now. I think in the past there was a jet service there. I do not know if they still have a jet service. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Henry.

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MR. HENRY:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman. As regards to the maintenance that the Minister had referred to in earlier questions, he had referred to some patching that had taken place. I note that there was \$700,000 spent at this particular airport on overlay of runway in prior years. Was this last year, or can you give us more details when this \$750,000 was spent?. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in 1984 the overlay was completed to the Fort Smith runway. Perhaps, it is marked as \$700,000 prior years. It is probably referring to 1984. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I assume then, from 1984 when there was \$700,000 spent there, there was nothing spent?. Could the Minister tell us how much was spent on the maintenance that he has referred to the filling of cracks and that? What money was spent from 1984 until the present?.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in patching and filling cracks on the airports such as this one here, it is part of the maintenance program of that airport. If the honourable Member is asking me to get the figures of exactly how much it cost for that, we could get that information to the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Final supplementary, Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think the questions that I ask, I believe they would be important to have that information available. This is a sizeable amount of money that is being spent. I think that it would be important to have this information to make

that type of expenditure decision on. If the Minister has referred to filling of cracks and that, could a smaller amount of money continue to work on filling these cracks? If that would be sufficient for two or three years until this government is in a better position financially? Also, the Minister does not have the information available as to whether there is jet service, if the larger aircrafts are using this runway and that, I would think, it would be important to have that information. I would need that before proceeding. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Antoine, could you give us some indication when this information might be available?

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

We will try to get the information as soon as we can, perhaps even this afternoon. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, following up on the line of questioning with reference to the \$2 million being spent for the overlay of the runway in Fort Smith. I regret that I am addressing this issue when my colleague, Mr. Miltenberger, is not in the House. But, unfortunately, I think that our time is limited, so I will address the question of the common point. I would like to know from the Minister, how he can rationalize spending this kind of money, \$2 million on an existing runway that has been paved? Members of my committee and I were at that airport last year, and spent a fair bit of time there, it certainly did not look to the naked eye like it was in much need of repair. My point, we have airports in the eastern Arctic that are not long enough to provide for jet service. We have airports that are 99.9 percent of them are gravel, and the Minister is trying to rationalize that we should spend \$2 million on repaving or touching up this runway, when we have gravel runways and runways that are not capable of taking or handling large jets. To me, it is like you have a guy with no clothes on, you have a guy with clothes. The guy with clothes, you give him a new suit. The other guy is still going around naked. I would like for the Minister to explain and justify how he can rationalize this. I look at what is happening this weekend with our meeting in

Cambridge Bay. It is no wonder that people are so excited with the advent of Nunavut. For once, maybe, there will be some fair treatment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. I believe the question, Mr. Antoine, is justification for the \$2 million for Fort Smith airport.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this \$2 million for the Fort Smith airport is to do the overlay. When you have infrastructure in place, you have to maintain the infrastructure. If you have infrastructures such as the airport in Fort Smith, the maintenance of it is a higher level of maintenance and it is designed for jet service. We are getting that information, exactly what kind of aircraft is coming in to this facility. It is also a base for the fire fighting operation here in the north. It requires a good airbase. Therefore, this is required. That is the rationalization for doing this work. Part of the airport A transfer, there were commitments towards certain capital projects and, I believe, this was one of the commitments. We are getting that information as well, exact detail. We are trying to honour these type of commitments as we go along in this whole process. I know what the honourable Member is getting to. But, that is not what the \$2 million is for. It is for the Fort Smith overlay pavement. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I note that there was approximately half a million dollars spent on this same project last year. We are now proposing another \$2 million, I am not referring to the lighting project in Arviat, but now that he brings it up, I will address it. He indicated that there was a commitment made here for \$2 million, so therefore we have to honour it. The Minister did not hesitate in deviating from the commitment that he made to the people of Arviat when he took out the half million dollars without consulting myself nor the members of the community. My point, Mr. Chairman, is that I asked the Minister if he would reconsider reallocating this money, not necessarily to my community, but to other communities that need assistance as far those with

gravel runways, runways being extended, and runways that may need some help or attention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we are talking about the \$2 million for Fort Smith overlay runway. According to our business plan, according to this main estimate, this is what the plan of this department is, to do this project. I am trying to give you details of this \$2 million on how we are going to do the work. To take the \$2 million away from this project and spread it around, that is not the intention of myself or this department to do. As I said, there were certain commitments for the transfer such as other airports in the north where we are building ATVs and so forth. There were commitments during transfer and we are honouring those. This is a similar case here as well. We have to honour these types of commitments that we make. Again, this airport requires it. We are talking about safety. We have been patching up the cracks and so forth. We have to do this type of overlay so that the life of this airport continues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would like to remind the Members not to refer someone who may be absent from the House. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The final question to the Minister. The Minister has indicated that the reason for this work is safety. How does the Minister equate filling up the cracks in already paved runways, when 90 percent of the runways in the eastern Arctic are gravel? It does not make any sense to me. When you come in, you land in the community of Arviat and the rocks and the gravel are flying up and hitting the windows and the wings. I would be concerned about safety there, not about whether we need some extra tar or pavement to fill up some cracks in the runway in Fort Smith. Whether it is Fort Smith or any other runway that is already paved, I think there should be a policy in place, that if somebody already has an installation such as a paved runway in place, they should not be looked at until the other runways are

not paved are addressed. I think it is very simple, very basic, very fair. So once again, I will ask the Minister and I will listen for his response, will he reconsider redistributing these funds to other airports or runways that need this type of attention? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Honourable Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member makes a good case. There are a lot of airports in the north in communities that have been asking for extension of their airports. In some cases, the request is for paving certain airports. In this particular case, going back to Fort Smith overlay runway taxi apron for \$2 million, I am told that had Transport Canada retained the Fort Smith airport, they would have paved it in 1996/97 fiscal year. In our case we had deferred it for one year for this year. It was part of the commitment that we are honouring here in regards to the Arctic A transfer, similar to other agreements that we had during the transfer. We are honouring this one as well. This airport here has a jet service, five days a week, F28 jet to Fort Smith, Canadian Regional Airlines. This has a daily jet service five days a week and it requires this type of hard top. This pavement needs an overlay for safety and for protecting the investment that we have. If we let it deteriorate any longer, it will probably will cost more than it is going to cost us at this time to do the overlay. There was a previous year's amount last year. There was some money spent, \$450,000, that is for the gravel haul for the pavement that is supposed to be done this year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I wish that the Minister could be as strong as honouring the commitments that he has made in the east as he does in the west. Mr. Speaker, I am still at a loss to understand the rationale that the Minister and his department are using to justify spending another \$2 million on a project that already has been given sufficient funding to pave, cap, whatever, the runway in Fort Smith. Mr. Chairman, would like to make a motion if I may.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Yes, Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

I would like to move the motion that the \$2 million that is projected for the overlay of the runway in Fort Smith be redistributed to other small communities that need special attention, especially regions or communities that have no pavement at all. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. I do not have the motion in writing. Mr. Clerk, do you have the motion in writing. I will recognize Mr. Morin on a point of privilege.

Point of Privilege

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have the Member for Kivallivik withdraw his comments. Mr. Chairman, he accused a Minister of the government of favouring the western side of the territories over the east in his previous comment. What I heard was the Minister should honour his comments in the east like he does in the west, and I take exception to that comment. We as a government are elected to represent all the Northwest Territories and we do not base our decisions east and west. I would request that the Member withdraw his comments, if he has any right to have the name "honourable" in front of his name or not, he should do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. I am going to have to check the transcript to see if you have a point of privilege and I reserve judgement at this time. To the point of privilege, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien, are you referring to another point of privilege?

MR. O'BRIEN:

The original point of privilege in reference to the comments made by the Premier.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. I have not yet recognized Mr. Morin's point as a point of privilege, but if you are raising a point of privilege, go right ahead and speak to it, and I will rule later whether you have a point of privilege.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Chairman, I think the Premier has sunk to an all time low in reference to his comments to me indicating

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that I should not have the word honourable in front of my name. This is indicative of some of the garbage that we hear from across the floor. The slanderous comments, derogatory remarks and I, at this point demand an apology from the Premier for these remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. O'Brien, I would have to first rule on the point of privilege of the Premier. I now understand that you are also raising a point of privilege. So that is another point of privilege that I am going to have to check the Hansard to see exactly what was said, to see if in fact Mr. Morin had first point of privilege. In your regards too, I will have to reserve judgement. I understand that we left off where someone had a motion on the floor and I believe it was you. I requested from you whether or not this motion was in writing. Perhaps while we are getting your motion in writing we can take a short break. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

The point of order, Mr. Chairman. On page ten of our rules, Members are not supposed to make "allegations against another Member, a House officer or witnesses; imputes false or hidden motives to another Member; charges another Member with uttering a deliberate falsehood." That is my point of order that Mr. O'Brien made allegations against a Minister of this government and he imputes false or hidden motives on that Minister. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Regardless of the situation, at this point I am going to need time to review all this information, so I am going to call a 15 minute break.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Before I return to the motion that is on the floor, I would like to state to the Members of the committee that I am trying to keep straight in my mind the exact order of this point of privilege, point of privilege, point of order that was raised and by the different Members, so that I will then be able to advise the committee as to what I will be doing here. First of all, the point of privilege was raised by Mr. Morin, which was countered with a point of privilege by Mr. O'Brien and countered again by a point of order by Mr. Morin. Since these two points of privilege and one point of order were all raised in relation to what was said previous to these points being raised, I will have to review the transcripts and reserve ruling at this point. However, I understand Mr. Morin has a statement to make and I will recognize Mr. Morin at this point.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to withdraw the remark I made about Mr. O'Brien, on whether or not he deserved to have the name "honourable" in front of his name. With that, Mr. Chairman, I withdraw that remark. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. We will now return to the motion that we have on the floor. I now have it in writing and I will ask the Member, Mr. O'Brien, to read his motion.

Committee Motion 13-13(4): Recommendation to Redistribute \$2 Million to Gravel Runway Projects in Smaller Communities

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now that everybody is calm, I move that this committee recommend that the \$2 million in capital expenditures identified for the overlay runway taxi apron in Fort Smith, under the Department of Transportation, be redistributed to facilitate upgrading and improvement projects to gravel runways in smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. The motion is in order. To the motion. I have Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Henry. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for being absent. I zipped out to see the doctor. Obviously it was a mistake to leave the House for any length of time as it appears, like jackals, some have turned on a constituency when the Member was not here. I think it is reprehensible. Mr. Chairman, this issue has come up before and the way that some people pull motions out of their back pockets, it is some type of consensus government by ambush, where there is no warning. We sat around this table, we sat around in Ordinary Members' Caucus, we sat around in government operations. We have dealt with this issue. It was off the table. It was agreed that the plan that was there was justified. In the 11th hour, some folks take it upon themselves to slip this motion in, which I think, at the very least, troubles me greatly. The same Members that are asking for support for their ridings on certain issues. Though I will give them credit, at least this time they did not ask that it be put into their own specific ridings. Though I am sure that would be the intent.

Mr. Chairman, obviously I cannot support this motion. I ask all honourable Members who are fair and clear thinking and have worked through this process for the last nine months to support this motion, to defeat this motion. I think it is an affront. It is an attack on the constituency of Thebacha. The people who are making this motion should feel bloody ashamed. Mr. Chairman, this is unconscionable, in this kind of consensus-based government that we talk about, that we purport to have, when the Members who beat their chests the most often about situations, would do something as duplicitous and underhanded as this. It is totally out of the question for me and if that is the way they want it, if they want to lower the standard of conduct of this House to this kind of back alley kind of stuff, well then we are all going to be the worse for it. That is not the way I like to do business.

We sat around tables and talked about this. I am out of this House for half an hour to go see the doctor and, man, the knives came out of the sheaths slicker than things you can imagine. These guys ought to be proud of this. They could duke it out in the back alleys of Iraq. Some popcorn government that they may be thinking we are trying to run here. Mr. Chairman, I am a little agitated about this particular motion. I will be, obviously, voting against it and I will do my best to tell the people of Fort Smith not to paint all the MLAs with the same brush that some of these MLAs are causing their actions to be interpreted as by this conduct that they are taking towards Fort Smith. Mr. Chairman, I will cease my

comments before I say something I will regret, but this is unacceptable.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Could I ask the Members to please attempt not to be so argumentative. Speak towards the motion. Keep within parliamentary language. I recognize Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I will not be supporting this motion. I believe the motion is premature. I had asked questions of the Minister. Some of them he had answered, some he had committed to getting back to me. I accept that the Minister would have available to him expertise that could advise him as to the status or requirement of this particular project. I respect that. What I am interested in and my questioning were towards the fiscal responsibility. Does this work have to be done now or could it wait? For those questions the Minister was getting answers to me. That is why I could not support this motion at this time, because I do not have all the answers and I spoke to that clearly in my questioning. That I wanted additional information, not from the perspective of cancelling it, from a fiscal responsibility to ensure that what the Minister's experts were telling him also made sound financial sense in our present economic climate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. To the motion, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, cannot vote in support of this motion. As the honourable Member from Yellowknife South has indicated, we are waiting for information as to whether this work can wait until later. We have heard that it is more expensive to let paved runways deteriorate, than try to do it later. I think, at this time when we are trying to save money, it is not wise to let a runway deteriorate so it will cost us more later, if we do not have to. At this time, I cannot just agree to spread the money around to smaller communities without sufficient information to make a decision on, Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. To the motion, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I need money for my airports in Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven. However, Mr. Chairman, we talked about being fair, we talked about being equitable in this government. We are the public government. We have a consensus type of government. I think we should try and understand each other. Either the money is for the eastern Arctic or western Arctic, it is in the budget. This is one government, thereby, Mr. Chairman, I am not going to be supporting the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. To the motion. Are we prepared for question? Before I call question, I will ask Mr. O'Brien. Would you like to have the last word on the motion?

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Chairman, I think I have said enough for today. It is hard to hear what the Premier is saying when he is hiding behind those flowers over there. I believe that the point was made. The point was made loud and clear. The success of the motion is not important. It is the principle. As far as I am concerned, the point has made very clear what the issue is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Question? All those in favour. No. Who? Just to inform the committee. I do not have a request here for a recorded vote, so I am just going to call question. All those in favour. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was trying to get your attention to request a recorded vote. I would ask that you indulge that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to state that I will be supporting this motion. Mostly for Pond Inlet, because the Pond Inlet airstrip has not been extended for over ten years. We know that the airstrip is in good

condition. They have good equipment in that area. We have been seeking to fix the airstrips in the smaller communities, where they do not get jet services. I feel that there is a good airstrip in that area. I will be supporting this motion. Thank you. (Translation ends)

CHAIRMAN (MR. STEEN):

Thank you, Mr. Evaloarjuk. I would like to inform the committee, Mr. Ng, you did not have a point of order. The mover had the right to close the debate on the motion. I called to the motion and no one wanted to speak. That is why Mr. O'Brien spoke to it and finalized the discussion. Also, there seems to be a misunderstanding on the part of Mr. Evaloarjuk as well, in that he spoke to the motion after Mr. O'Brien did. I am going to leave that as a misunderstanding on the part of Mr. Evaloarjuk to the proceedings. Right now I will ask if we are prepared to call question. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Mr. Chairman. I put up my hand a couple of times and I feel that I did have a right to speak. You did not look my way when I had my hand a couple of times. Thank you very much. (Translation ends)

CHAIRMAN (MR. STEEN):

Thank you, Mr. Evaloarjuk and I apologize for not seeing your hand. Are we back to question? Are we prepared for question? All those in favour of the motion. Down. All those opposed. Thank you. The motion is defeated. Building and works, Fort Smith region. Total region \$2,120,000. I have a list here of those that still wanted to speak. I have Mr. Henry, Mr. Picco, Mr. Barnabas, and Mr. Rabesca. I will now recognize Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had asked the Minister questions earlier, some of which he did not give responses to. I believe he may have that information now. If not, when could it be provided? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (MR. STEEN):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think I provided most of the information that the Member has asked for. In regards to the Fort Smith airport, it would have been paved if Transport Canada had retained its

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services. They would have paved it in 1996/97. Since this was transferred to us last year, we deferred it until this year. Yes, there is jet service, I was told five days a week, but now I am told it is six days a week. That is the correction here. If we leave the air strip to deteriorate any further, it is going to cause problems for safety and aircraft take off and landings. It will cost more in the future to repair, but this is part of our commitments during the Arctic A transfer. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (MR. STEEN):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you. My final question, Mr. Chairman. Is a process used, is the expertise in-house or is the expertise contracted in the decision process as to the conditions of runways and the need for them to be upgraded or repaired? Is there engineering expertise in the department or is it contracted outside of the department?. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (MR. STEEN):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in general the process is that we have in-house engineers who have expertise in analyzing the infrastructure in place. We also use combinations. Sometimes we use outside consultants that have expertise in certain areas. We get them on contract basis to do some analysis at different times. Normally, we try to keep in-house as much as possible. In this case, we have inhouse people who are experts in runways and overlays and we utilize their expertise. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (MR. STEEN):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. I have buildings and works, Fort Smith region. Total region, \$2,120,000. I have Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on this line I have some questions on the ERS in Iqaluit. The department had put together a good report stating that ERS was in need based on the federal regulations that take in account the number of passengers, so on, and so forth. The federal regulations do not take in account the unique geographic location of the airport or the weather because the airport is the only access to Iqaluit that we have. We do not have any roads. It serves as a hub for 13 other communities. So, my question to the Minister is, I understand in the federal regulations on the transfer of the ERS to Arctic airports from the federal government there were residuals and incremental money to pay for the ERS up to and including the year 2001. Is that correct?.

CHAIRMAN (MR. STEEN):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the ERS in Iqaluit was funded until we took it over during the Arctic A transfer. We funded from in-house pending the regulation development for the national ERS regulation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (MR. STEEN):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, so the Minister is saying that there was nothing in the original federal agreement from Transport Canada indicating that there would be incremental dollars for the ERS services. Is that what he is saying?

CHAIRMAN (MR. STEEN):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, at the time of the transfer, the ERS was in place and during the negotiations that part of the ERS service was also negotiated. It was subject to the management decision here once the regulation has been developed on what and how to proceed from there. At the present time, the GNWT was funding the ERS and because of regulations and the study that was done to determine that it is no longer required, we will

be going towards decommissioning the ERS in Iqaluit early in the fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN (MR. STEEN):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, because of the recent accidents, the crash at CF-18, the Boeing 747 accident in Iqaluit, and other things over the past 12 months, it has been a very difficult time and the ERS has played a major part. So my final question to the Minister is, can he provide to me a copy of the federal transfer agreement that was originally signed about a year and a half ago with Arctic airports and the federal government and this government, so that I can have a look at it to see what moneys were transferred with that agreement.

CHAIRMAN (MR. STEEN):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Picco could you explain to me how your question applies to the Fort Smith region?

MR. PICCO:

How does it apply to the Fort Smith region? I do not know, Mr. Chairman, you should have asked me that when I was asking my first question when I began, instead of asking me now at the end.

CHAIRMAN (MR. STEEN):

Mr. Picco, I am just trying to see how your question applies to the subject before us. Are we still on the same subject, Fort Smith region?

MR. PICCO:

Well, I think we are on the same area, which is the airports.

CHAIRMAN (MR. STEEN):

Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (MR. STEEN):

We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Motion is carried. I thank you Minister and witnesses for attending and now I will rise and report progress.

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MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. We are on item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Steen.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. STEEN:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Picco. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if could ask your indulgence and the Members' indulgence to go back to Members' statements. I have a serious issue I wish to deal with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Keewatin Central is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 3, Members' statements. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Tribute to Ed Picco

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I really appreciate this opportunity to talk about this very important issue. Mr. Speaker, since today is Valentine's Day, I rise on behalf of my Cabinet colleagues to recognize a true friend of ours, Mr. Edward Walter Picco, the honourable Member from Iqaluit.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, Members may have heard Mr. Picco's interview this morning on CBC Iqaluit. In summary, Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member explained in his usual, eloquent manner, his lonely role as a defender of truth and goodness and the laudable positions he has taken since being elected to the Legislative Assembly. Our only concern with the interview, Mr. Speaker, is that Mr. Picco seems to suggest that Cabinet, in some way, is trying to muzzle him for his views. To the contrary, Mr. Speaker, we enjoy listening to the dulcet tones of Mr. Picco's voice almost as much as he does.

In recognition of this, Mr. Speaker, the Cabinet would like to present to Mr. Picco a cassette of his interview this morning. Mr. Speaker, this is truly a gift that keeps on giving, as Mr. Picco will be able to enjoy listening to his interview over and over and over again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Members' statements. You already had your Member's statement. The Member already had his Member's statement this morning. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to an important issue here today and that is the assuming character assassination of my good voice. I accept the gift graciously, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Picco, I am sorry but we cannot have a debate under Members' statements and the Member for Iqaluit has already had his Member's statement this morning. So we are back to Item 22, orders of the day, Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, the meeting of the Nunavut Caucus immediately after adjournment today. Meetings for Tuesday, February the 18th at 9 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, at 10:30 of the Ordinary Members' Caucus and 11:30 of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, February the 18th:

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 Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bills 10 and 11
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 8

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- Committee Report 2-13(4), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the 1997/98 Main Estimates

- Committee Report 3-13(4), Standing Committee on Infrastructure Report on the 1997/98 Main Estimates

- Committee Report 4-13(4), Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development Report on the 1997/98 Main Estimates

20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I have received from the Government House Leader and Caucus that it is the desire not to sit on Monday, February the 17th, 1997, as the Nunavut Members and the Premier will be attending a very important Nunavut Leaders' Summit in Cambridge Bay. I wish all those travelling to Cambridge Bay a safe journey and return. By the authority given the chair by Motion 3-13(4), the House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February the 18th.

-- ADJOURNMENT