



**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, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Miltenberger, 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.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Good morning. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Ms. Thompson.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 57-13(4): Community Development Approach to Empowerment

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning. Mr. Speaker, today I will provide Members with information on the development tools the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has prepared to help communities become empowered.

Mr. Speaker, since community empowerment is community driven, communities set the pace and decide when they want to pursue greater opportunities. Our job, Mr. Speaker, is to facilitate the empowerment process by providing the tools, training and support. Mr. Speaker, community development is not an overnight process. We expect to be in this business for some time, as communities move from one level to another along the continuum of empowerment.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and other government staff are working together on a number of community development approaches that will provide support. My department has held workshops, developed resource materials and

provided training to empowerment resource people in the communities. A community-based planning workshop was held last summer to train regional government staff in community-based planning and assessment. These training sessions were not just for MACA staff, they involved staff from all departments who work in communities and will assist in the community-based planning process.

A Training Information Fair was also held to streamline government training resources and strengthen training support networks. A Training Resource Catalogue for communities was compiled which lists all the government training resources available to elected officials, boards and agencies, community staff, government staff and the public. Copies of the Training Resource Catalogue were sent to community empowerment resource staff for further distribution to communities. Members of this Assembly also received a copy. Staff are also working to co-ordinate information on training from other sources and through programs like the Nunavut Unified Human Resource Development Strategy.

Late last year, community empowerment orientation workshops were held in all regions. These regional workshops increased awareness of community empowerment, developed a consistent approach to community development activities, and developed government staff to fulfil their role as regional resources to communities. Regional staff are now beginning their travels to communities to carry the message and have the necessary discussions at the local level.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that departments have formed interdepartmental teams at the regional level to plan information sessions for each community. MACA is co-ordinating these efforts and a greater understanding of the Community Empowerment Initiative is growing.

Recently, I provided all Members with copies of our newest resource kit called, "Stepping Forward: Putting Vision Into Action". This resource kit will assist northern communities in determining how to take increased responsibility for programs and services to better meet local needs. Skill development workshops are planned for community resource people. These workshops will develop local skills and confidence so communities can begin the visionary planning process. For those communities with identified training needs, training opportunities are available. Training is a shared responsibility between the individuals who will receive it, the communities who

want and support it and this government who has available resources.

Our government departments continue to offer over 130 training opportunities to elected officials, boards and agencies, community staff, territorial government staff and the public. Regional interdepartmental teams are working in partnership with communities, to determine where training gaps exist and to focus training efforts to fill those gaps.

We recognise that communities are at different levels of readiness and ability. Several communities have already taken over certain areas of control from the territorial government. Many others have expressed keen interest but want more information on the initiative before forging ahead. Communities have many questions for empowerment resource people. I welcome their questions, suggestions and input.

Mr. Speaker, community empowerment starts and ends with people in our communities. It is our responsibility to help people take on more responsibility by providing them with the

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necessary tools, resources, training and support so they can empower themselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 58-13(4): Scouting and Guiding Week in Canada

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during this past week, there have been a number of displays in the Great Hall that celebrate the history of scouting and guiding in the Northwest Territories. These displays have been set up to celebrate Scouting and Guiding Week which is being held from February 16th to 22nd this year. This week was chosen because it marks the birthdays of Lord Robert and Lady Olive Baden-Powell, who founded the scouting and guiding movements. This week also marks the 90th anniversary of scouting in Canada.

Scouting and guiding started in the Northwest Territories in the late 1930's. There are currently 290 scouts in seven communities across the Northwest Territories, while there are 800 guides, most of whom live in communities outside of Yellowknife.

Scouting and guiding encourages young people to become resourceful and responsible members of the community through self improvement and service to others. Activities include visits to community organizations, talks from visiting experts in a number of fields, crafts, camping and other outdoor activities.

Scouting and guiding also gives young people opportunities to learn about other countries and other cultures through international travel. Last year, 12 boys from Yellowknife went to the World Jamboree in the Netherlands. This year, more than 35 youth from Yellowknife and Inuvik are planning to go to the Canadian Jamboree in Thunder Bay in July. A group of boys from Yellowknife are currently working to raise funds to go to a World Jamboree in Chile. Guides from the Northwest Territories have also travelled throughout Canada and the world, with recent group trips to Alaska and Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, scouting and guiding is made possible by adults in many Northwest Territories communities who regularly volunteer their time to lead groups. There are approximately 65 scout leaders in the NWT and 130 guide leaders. In addition, many people from communities speak to groups and assist them in their various activities.

Scouting and guiding offer young people many opportunities to learn about the world around them, to develop teamwork and leadership skills and take part in healthy activities. I am pleased to recognise Scouting and Guiding Week in the Northwest Territories. I wish all scouts and guides the best for the coming year as they carry out their many interesting and exciting activities across the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Yellowknife Scouting and Guiding Movement

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My honourable colleague, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment spoke on the importance of the scouting and guiding movement in the NWT. I would like to follow up with a few comments on the importance of that movement here in Yellowknife. This week has been Baden-Powell Week, a nationally recognised celebration of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, the founders of the scouting and guiding movement. Their movement is now 90 years old and in Yellowknife it involves about 350 young people in a range of programs for all ages. As Mr. Dent noted, these programs can take members to jamborees across the country and around the world. Closer to home, members enjoy activities that emphasize outdoor skills, personal development and community involvement.

Tonight, many members of the local scouting and guiding scene will join a torchlight procession from City Hall to the Legislative Building. A reception in the Great Hall in our building will follow the parade, beginning at 6:00 p.m. I hope that those of you who are here today will also be able to attend. If you cannot make it, I hope you will stop by the display in the Great Hall on the history of scouting and guiding in Yellowknife. Another display has been set up in the Panda Mall downtown.

Mr. Speaker, the scouting and guiding movement is an important element in the lives of the youngsters here in Yellowknife. It provides them with a constructive and creative outlet. I, for one, hope that Yellowknifers will continue to support and enjoy the benefits of the movement for many years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On GNWT Telephone Directory

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to bring to the House a concern that has an impact on the way our government provides service to its residents. Earlier my colleague, Mr. Erasmus, asked about the publication of the GNWT telephone directory, whereas most know it as the "green book". Mr. Speaker, I believe this government is trying, to the best of their ability, to provide good service with the

limited dollars available in trying to use the latest technology available. However, when it comes to the issue of this green book versus phone numbers accessed by the Internet, I have concerns. Mr. Speaker, I believe we should, in any way possible, use the latest technology to help make our staff more effective and knowledgeable. However, this may be fine for communities that can access all this new technology. It does not hold much water for the smaller communities that do not have this luxury.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for our government to be able to give access for all of our residents, not just the ones who can

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access the Internet. Many boards and agencies rely on this green book to get the required information from the right employees, not having to make numerous calls in order to find a person you need to talk to. This can be very expensive, considering the high cost of phone service that we in the north have to pay. Mr. Speaker, there must be some way that we can get a new phone listing of our people in a cheaper and efficient manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Light Reading Materials

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we came to this House as new Members, we were informed that Friday mornings were supposed to be a little light and a little jovial so I will try and do my part. As MLAs we are required to do significant amounts of reading as part of the job, we deal with high volumes of correspondence and are expected to read binders full of information as part of the job. I expect other Members feel this to be a burden at times as the material can be very dry and we are forced to keep a clear head and digest all that we read. There is not much opportunity for light reading or even entertaining reading material but when there is, it sometimes proves to be worth sharing. Mr. Speaker, I refer to an article on page 664 of the unedited version, Hansard of February 4, 1997 when I thought my mind was truly going. Mr. Speaker, I was aghast to read that the honourable Minister of Finance stated, and I quote, "I

do not have underwear right now because our agenda is so full..."

-- Laughter

MR. HENRY:

Mr. Speaker, had I an extra pair of underwear that day, I would have gladly lent it to Mr. Todd. I do not think anyone should have to suffer that embarrassment. Another such case of light reading comes to mind when I read the February 5th editorial in the Yellowknifer on page seven, paragraph two, regarding the City of Yellowknife appointment of Mr. Bob Brooks as alderman replacing Mr. Dalton. The article talked about Mr. Brooks and the quote was about Mr. Brooks, "he is a respected member of the Yellowknife community with the record of public service including council experience".

-- Laughter

MR. HENRY:

Our city council should feel privileged that they had an opportunity to find such a well rounded individual as Mr. Brooks, although I do wonder what a record of public service really means and how this service will be beneficial to our city council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Passing of Inuvik Elder Effie Rogers

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in an area of sadness. Mr. Speaker, I was informed last night, upon phoning home, that a respected elder in our community of Inuvik had passed on a couple of days ago. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Effie Rogers was born in the Delta, lived a hard life and raised a large family. It is with sadness today that I speak on her passing. I hope my colleagues and friends here join me in sending prayers and condolences to the family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Congratulations to Bruce Rigby

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Bruce Rigby of Iqaluit. Bruce has just been recognized by Environment Canada for his efforts in changing the dynamics of environmental research in the Northwest Territories, by building bridges between scientists and northern communities. Mr. Speaker, Bruce and I go back to our college days when we worked together. Today, he is the director of the Nunavut Research Institute. The award, well known as the Patricia Roberts Pichette Award, is for those who have demonstrated enthusiastic leadership and commitment to advancing ecological monitoring and research in Canada. Bruce is also widely known for his successful work on behalf of the college with fund raising and accessing third party funding to continue the work of the Nunavut Research Institute. Mr. Speaker, through his work at the institute, which is part of the Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Rigby has achieved this by promoting and developing ways in which community and educational institutions can have a greater role in local environmental monitoring programs. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Bruce a friend and a constituent of Iqaluit. Congratulations Bruce. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement On NWT Birth Rate

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is about the birth rate in the Northwest Territories and the potential effects of this. Mr. Speaker, we often speak about the forced growth in the Northwest Territories. Our birth rate is three to five times higher than the national average. Of course, this means spiralling costs for education, health and social services. Many of our young people are having babies in their teens and this should cause us even greater alarm, Mr. Speaker, than the fiscal reality that it costs money. I am talking about the potential for spreading infectious diseases. Last week, there was an article in the Globe

and Mail concerning the spread of HIV, AIDS, and I would just like to read a little bit out of it.

"The epidemic of HIV infection appears to be growing especially among drug users and young people of both sexes who Health Canada officials say are ignoring warnings about risky sex. The average age for new infections is now 23 years of age down from 32 in the early 1980s. This means that a significant number of people now being diagnosed with HIV must have been infected as teenagers because there can be a long delay between contracting the virus and diagnoses. The

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rate of new infections has declined dramatically among older Canadians who are apparently taking precautions because they have seen the illness and death among their peers but it has climbed among those in their teens and early 20s, Health Canada said. The fact that the average age is 23 means that half of all new cases occur in people 23 years of age and younger. If we are going to prevent new infections we will have to aim at a much younger population," said Dr. Sutherland from Health Canada.

Mr. Speaker, our young people are our most precious resource and I urge this government to develop and implement a program so we can reach our young people and get them to at least take precautions if they insist on having sex at such a young age. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Passing of Arviat Elder Lucy Aiyarani

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today on a sad note. My home community of Arviat has lost one of its most respected elders and a good friend of mine, Lucy Aiyarani died this week in Arviat. Lucy is also the only living aunt of one of our Members here, John Ningark, and the mother of a very well-known entertainer in the Keewatin, Charley Panagoniak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 342-13(4): Impact of Communications Privatization

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Erasmus on February 19th, on the impact of communications privatization. Since 1967, the government has had a switchboard service in Yellowknife. Originally this was combined with a receptionist service in the Laing Building. An internal phone book in a green binder was also provided. The GNWT has now outgrown these approaches.

All other provinces and territories provide phone number information through the public phone book's blue pages and an internal phone list on the Internet. The GNWT is now moving to that same approach.

Special attention has been given to the blue pages in the NorthwTel 1997 phone book, so they will be helpful to the public. Communications co-ordinators in all departments are aware of the importance of keeping their electronic phone list up-to-date. Systems and communications are working on an additional access point. Soon any employee with a computer and access to e-mail will be able to download a copy of the phone book in the same way employees download Hansard. I believe that the impacts of these changes will be a positive one. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Picco.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize in the gallery Mrs. Pat Thomas from the NWTTA. I would like to confirm that the NWTTA is represented by Mrs. Pat Thomas to recognize the legitimate representative of the teachers in Nunavut. There was no other endorsement extended or implied with regard to visitors in the gallery yesterday. Welcome Pat.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure today to introduce a constituent from Hay River, a long-time resident recently retired from a long career with Northland Utilities and now a part-time assistant in my constituency office, June Erickson.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a good friend of mine from Baker Lake, a businessman, a sometimes friend of Mr. Todd, also the deputy Mayor of Baker Lake, President of Keewatin Chamber of Commerce, and Vice-chair of the Keewatin Education Council, Mr. Glen McLean.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to welcome everybody. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 363-13(4): Future of the NWT Power Corporation

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Deputy Premier. In the newsline print that we get on a daily basis for February 21st it indicates the NWT Power Corporation and the Workmens' Compensation Board will remain intact after division. The decision was made in Cambridge Bay at the meeting of the Nunavut Implementation Commission, GNWT and the federal Minister of Northern Affairs. Could the Deputy Premier clarify the government's position on the process that will be involved in the final disposition, as to the structure of the NWT Power Corporation and the Workmens' Compensation Board and the role this

Legislative Assembly will play with the 24 Members duly elected that sit here? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

That was two questions. The Deputy Premier.

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Return To Question 363-13(4): Future of the NWT Power Corporation

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I would clarify that decision made in Cambridge Bay was amongst the Nunavut Leadership and the three parties. The three parties being the NTI, the GNWT and the federal government. The decision was to support the position of the Nunavut Implementation Commission, which suggests the Power Corporation and the WCB remain intact after division to provide shared services to both the western and Nunavut territory. The final decision to be made by the GNWT, in consideration of recommendations of that decision and all MLAs. If I could exercise my discretion as Deputy Premier in the absence of the Premier, I will ask the Minister of the Power Corporation to answer the second part of that question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent

Return To Question 363-13(4): Future of the NWT Power Corporation

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Deputy Premier has said, this House will have to be intimately involved in any final decision. I know in speaking to Mr. Miller from the CBC yesterday, I was very clear and I believe he taped my response. I said it was my position that I would recommend to this House the Power Corporation remain as one entity through division, but there would have to be a decision in this House before that could be finalized.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 363-13(4): Future of the NWT Power Corporation

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Deputy Premier reconcile his comments about the GNWT supporting the position that both organizations remain intact and how that will not prejudice or detract from the dialogue and debate that has to take place in this House before a final decision is made. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Again two questions. Deputy Premier.

Further Return To Question 363-13(4): Future of the NWT Power Corporation

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I believe the position of the government has been clear. In general we support the recommendation by the NIC to keep those two agencies intact, because of the reasons they have provided and the reasons that we see. But, also, to be very clear, the final decision will have to be made by this House in which the western Arctic Members are a part of. They will be fully informed and will be a part of the decision making group.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 364-13(4): Iqaluit ERS Training Funds

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, last week I asked the Minister of Transportation about the possibility of diverting some of the royalties from the Iqaluit Airport fuel sales, to help offset the upgrading and training for the ERS, or emergency response service, for Iqaluit. Can the Minister commit to looking at this possibility for safety's sake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance. Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 364-13(4): Iqaluit ERS Training Funds

HON. JOHN TODD:

No, Mr. Speaker, we would not be prepared to do that at this time. The fact of the matter is, the revenues

generated from POL operate in the revolving fund. It would be inappropriate for us to divert from the course we have. If there is requirement for additional expenditures to meet the requirements in Mr. Picco's riding, he has to debate and argue that in the House, seek support for it in committee and get the territorial Minister to support it. You cannot divert a revolving fund as it relates to POL products so it can take care of a particular situation in his particular riding at this time. Nyet.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 364-13(4): Iqaluit ERS Training Funds

MR. PICCO:

I see the Minister is learning Russian. Mr. Speaker, the situation here is the ERS is going to be phased out. I think we have come to that realization and eventuality. The airport fire department in Iqaluit are trained to fight fires. The volunteer department in Iqaluit do not have the proper equipment to respond. If we cannot get money out of the revolving fund, is it possible to have a portion of the fuel sales, the royalties of same, or maybe an extra tax or something, so we can generate the funds to pay for the \$260,000, I think it is, to upgrade the truck and also to provide that training?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 364-13(4): Iqaluit ERS Training Funds

HON. JOHN TODD:

Dosvedanya, Comrade Picco. Mr. Speaker, the reality is, it is not just Mr. Picco's riding. We have had to do the same thing in Ikaluktutiak. We have had to do it in other constituencies and the answer is no. There is a budgetary process in place, committee structure, and that is the process we have to deal with. I understand he has to represent his constituency as the MLA, but the reality is it was part of a fiscal restraint process. That was one of the areas it was felt had to be cut. It was not cut just in Mr. Picco's riding. It was cut in others, comrade.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 364-13(4): Iqaluit ERS Training Funds

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the honourable comrade just told me no again. Mr. Speaker, my question is this. I have to clarify, you cannot compare apples

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and oranges. The phasing out of the ERS in Iqaluit had nothing to do with the budgetary response of this government. The ERS was cut in Iqaluit because federal regulations said we did not need it. The federal regulations do not take into account, the geographic location, the transportation hub that is Iqaluit. We do not have any roads. All we have is an airport. I know we do not have the six million passengers or whatever level we need, but we also do not have the fire fighting equipment if it is phased out. So, my question to the Minister is, he is talking about bringing it up through the committee level, talking it here and talking it there. That is great, that is fine and wonderful, but it does not give me the help I need, the help my community needs.

I am asking the Minister, what course of action should I take so this government can help me with the five million litres of fuel that is sold by this government in Iqaluit to generate the extra revenue so we can, at least, find the \$260,000 to fight the fires? I know the Transportation Minister is helping me here with this but we have to find these funds. I am trying to find it from on-site in Iqaluit, not take it from anywhere else, but take it from there. Maybe he can try to help me with this.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 364-13(4): Iqaluit ERS Training Funds

HON. JOHN TODD:

My honourable colleague is correct. It is a safety complaint and we are concerned about safety. Here we have Fort Simpson, Cambridge Bay, have all lost them. Is he asking me as the Finance Minister, to look at revenue generation in a narrow focus just for his riding? I am saying to him that is inappropriate. The

decision was made by the federal government to get out of this business for a variety of reasons. That is not a decision we made. That is a decision Doug Young made when he was Minister of Transportation when I was the Minister of Transportation. I am not prepared to look here today at one particular riding as though a way of generating revenue is for them. We have to look at the big picture here. I know Mr. Picco wants to look at the big picture. We have a responsibility, not just to people in Iqaluit, but to people in Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, and Cambridge Bay. The kind of questioning is inappropriate.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 364-13(4): Iqaluit ERS Training Funds

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government of the Northwest Territories represents every person in the Northwest Territories. I did not imply that I am asking for favouritism. All I am saying is there are 5 million litres worth of fuel sold directly in the Iqaluit Airport. Maybe we could use some of this money to offset this training. This is a serious safety concern in Iqaluit because our volunteer fire department does not have the equipment to fight a fire at the airport. They do not have the training. There is a liability issue here. We have already had a crash of a CF-18 in my community. We had a 747 Jumbo Jet come down. Did that happen in any of these other communities? No. My question to the Minister is, can he tell me how I can generate revenue or off-site sales or something, so we can provide the extra \$260,000? That is what I am asking.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 364-13(4): Iqaluit ERS Training Funds

HON. JOHN TODD:

I like it when my colleague gets emotional. Let me explain to my colleague that if we are going to look at any revenue generation as he has asked me frequently in this House, I cannot look at it in isolation for Iqaluit. He did ask me if I would consider specifically Iqaluit revenue generation to protect his interests. No, we are not prepared to do that. We are

prepared, as I have said in this House many times, after we are through this budget, to spend some time, through discussion with the Members and others, in looking at revenue options for the well-being of the total budgetary concerns this House has to take into consideration.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 365-13(4): Impacts of Communications Privatization

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the honourable Minister of Public Works and Services for the quick reply on the impact of communications privatization. In his reply, the Minister indicated that since 1967 the government has had a switchboard service in Yellowknife and an internal phone book, popularly known as the "green book", but that the GNWT has now outgrown these approaches and went on to discuss the green book but he did not mention anything else about the switchboard. Are we still going to maintain a switchboard from now on? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 365-13(4): Impacts of Communications Privatization

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I will have to check into that question. I do not believe so, but I will find out the answer and give it to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 365-13(4): Impacts of Communications Privatization

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I have received some complaints about the on-line access on e-mail because some of the departments are not keeping

up-to-date with the people that are in their positions. With the revolving door we have had here the last little while, nobody seems to know where anybody is. Could we get a commitment that the Deputy Premier will instruct the various departments to keep their information up to date? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

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Further Return To Question 365-13(4): Impacts of Communications Privatization

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I had indicated earlier that is something we are doing already. We have communication coordinators appointed in each and every department and they have been working hard to get this new system in place. There may be some wrinkles in the system at this point in time but we are working on them. I can assure the Member the phone list will be as up-to-date as possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 366-13(4): Lease Arrangements Beyond Division

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for division. Mr. Speaker, at the recent leaders' meeting in Cambridge Bay, a number of critical issues were agreed to but unfortunately did not get the profile they should have. Agreement was reached with reference to the decentralized model as proposed in Footprints 2 and, also agreed to by all signatories, was the infrastructure model and scheduling. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of issues we unfortunately did not get to. One of these issues brought to my attention by my constituents was who will have the mandate or the authority to negotiate leases once Nunavut is here? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 366-13(4): Lease Arrangements Beyond Division

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, the development of the new infrastructure, as it relates to the decentralized model proposed by NIC, we have no authority over that. It is being done by the federal government in conjunction with an arrangement they reached with NTI, two years ago in relationship to ownership of facilities. The interim commissioner will have the interim authority to enter into fiscal arrangements with the federal government, prior to the election of the new Legislative Assembly. So, whoever the interim commissioner is would have the legislative and legal authority to enter into fiscal commitments on behalf of the future government of Nunavut until such time as a Nunavut government is elected and its officers put in place. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 366-13(4): Lease Arrangements Beyond Division

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister saying we will have to wait until the interim commissioner is approved and in place before these leases can be negotiated and, if that is the case, when can we expect this to occur? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 366-13(4): Lease Arrangements Beyond Division

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Mic. off) right because I know it is a very important one for my colleague, and certainly an important one for people in the east. This an arrangement between the federal government, Public Works Canada, DIAND, and NTI. All the new infrastructure requirements for the Nunavut government in a decentralized model, offices, houses, etc. will be owned by NTI. The legal obligation to commit to monies that have to be spent prior to the election of the Nunavut government lies under the authority of the interim commissioner. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 366-13(4): Lease Arrangements Beyond Division

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, assuming all the infrastructure that is required will not be in place by 1999 and, as a result, there will be a requirement for leases to be arranged. That is the point I am getting at. Can the Minister confirm that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 366-13(4): Lease Arrangements Beyond Division

HON. JOHN TODD:

I think my colleague is saying if there is a requirement for housing or office space now or before 1999, who would enter into making those arrangements? Is that what he is saying? As an interim requirement? I want to repeat again, for the sake of everyone, my understanding of the situation is all new infrastructures required for the decentralized model into 11 communities as proposed by NIC, will belong to NTI through an arrangement they have made with the federal government. If there is any pre-implementation or early need for housing or office complexes that are not in place, the person who has the legal authority to enter into a fiscal arrangement and commit dollars is the interim commissioner. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 366-13(4): Lease Arrangements Beyond Division

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It appears the only time we can bring some closure to this issue is upon the appointment of the interim commissioner. That brings up another question that has been asked in this House many times and I hope the Minister can be a

little more precise as to the timing of the appointment of the interim commissioner, and not that it is just imminent. We have asked the question a number of times in this House. I think it is long overdue that we get an answer as to when can we expect the announcement of the interim commissioner, and when will he start? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 366-13(4): Lease Arrangements Beyond Division

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HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, I think we all concur the sooner we get the interim commissioner in place, the sooner we can get on with trying to pre-implement, or have a transition period as we move toward April 1, 1999. My understanding from my discussions and the Premier's discussions with the Honourable Ron Irwin in Cambridge Bay that it would be done by the end of March. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr Ootes.

Question 367-13(4): Nationwide Academic Tests

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Charles Dent, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, regarding the nationwide academic tests. The other day I tabled a letter from the Mayor of Yellowknife. He had sent this letter to the Minister which expresses concern about getting information out on how Yellowknife schools placed in respect to the national test. The mayor pointed out that the Yellowknife Public School, which he attended as a child, was always one of the best in the Alberta system. The Alberta system today, Mr. Speaker, is apparently one of the best in the country. Also, the mayor pointed out the French immersion students are today on a par with Alberta systems and Alberta students.

The mayor's point was the Yellowknife schools may be on a par on a national basis, so does that mean the rest of the territory is far below because the tests indicate that? The mayor's question was, and I

wonder if the Minister could answer it, how did the Yellowknife schools perform in terms of the national tests? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 367-13(4): Nationwide Academic Tests

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have previously advised this House, the National School Achievement Indicators Program does not separate out results by community. The results are given to each jurisdiction, being each province or territory, on the basis of the whole province or territory. I think it is important to remember that indicator tests, such as this one, are used to give a broad indication of how students are doing.

They are used to identify areas where curriculum needs to be strengthened perhaps to ensure dealing with a situation. It is dangerous to take a test like this and make inferences that students are performing well above or well below what the national average might be. These tests are not necessarily normed for our population in the north. I think it is very important they be taken in context and used for the purpose for which they were designed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 367-13(4): Nationwide Academic Tests

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's answer and the difficulty he may have in coming up with information which identifies specific areas of the territories. It would seem to me that we should know this. We should know how the various communities score because after all, is that not how we are able to pin-point where the difficult problems may lay? There are obvious reasons for certain areas not performing as well as others. Could the Minister tell us if he can pursue the possibility of obtaining and segregating the information by large geographic areas, east, west, but also Yellowknife and some of the major centres? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 367-13(4): Nationwide Academic Tests

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Member is referring to the School Achievement Indicators Program, the answer is no. The tests do not indicate at which school they were taken. All of the Northwest Territories tests look the same to the markers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 367-13(4): Nationwide Academic Tests

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since it is difficult to segregate out, I really find that for many people such a test is really irrelevant, because it does not pin-point where our difficulties lie. I am wondering if the Minister could address this issue and institute the possibility of our own testing system, so we can pin-point how particular areas and schools do.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 367-13(4): Nationwide Academic Tests

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have said earlier, we need to remember the purpose of this testing is to provide jurisdictions with an overall indication of how well their curriculum is working. In response to earlier tests, it is important to remember we have made changes to our curriculum. We came up with a numeracy and literacy strategy to strengthen the curriculum in those areas given the results from previous tests. This test may indicate, once we have the specific details, where we need to undertake a similar sort of strategy with science.

The program does not cost the Northwest Territories very much. The federal government, Human Resources Development Canada, pays almost all the cash costs for this program across Canada. Therefore, it is an easy one for us to participate in. It is a very expensive program across Canada. I am satisfied we have other ways of checking how well our students are doing through divisional education councils, divisional education authorities, and through results such as the grade 12 examinations, in which 50 percent of the final mark is based on an Alberta departmental. Also, through the efforts of the ministry to keep track of how our students appear to be doing, I am satisfied that as part of our overall monitoring of how well students do, it is certainly worth while for us to

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participate in the School Achievement Indicators Program, especially as all costs are borne by the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 367-13(4): Nationwide Academic Tests

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would not argue with the Minister. It is beneficial for us to participate and I appreciate that it is paid for by the federal government. I also realize the tests do not take into account the many different cultures we have here in the north and the language differences. I do appreciate that it is difficult to extrapolate the specific areas and how they are performed.

Going back to my earlier question, it would seem there is concern by people like the Mayor of Yellowknife. How do the Yellowknife schools compare? How do they compare, and this test does not do that. I am wondering if the Minister could look at this whole issue of performance by territorial students because it will impact on a national basis when they go to apply to universities and other institutions. I am wondering if the Minister could address the questions I have posed and see if there is a possibility of segregating areas so we have a more definitive idea of where performance is good, and where performance is not good. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 367-13(4): Nationwide Academic Tests

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are always interested in looking at performance indicators. I would expect the department will continue to look for ways which we can assess performance and ensure it is adequate. We have a good set of indicators in place. Graduation rates being one of the best indicators of success in our system. As I have pointed out, 50 percent of the final mark in grade 12 is dependent on a departmental exam which is shared with Alberta. That alone gives us a pretty good comparison as to how our students compare with those in Alberta. We need to remember each divisional education council has to have the flexibility to work within their system to find what works with their students. We have to be careful about taking an approach which might be too rigid across the territories and might not respond to regional needs.

I am satisfied, Mr. Speaker, with the current system. The Member can be assured that the department will continue to look for ways to demonstrate the NWT students are achieving success. I also would like to express some concern about the Member's indication that these national tests will have any relation to how students do in southern universities. Mr. Speaker, southern universities or southern colleges take a look at a student's transcript. They do not look at just a graduation certificate, they do not look at a diploma, you only get admitted to another institution based on your transcript. That includes the marks on each and every course the student takes. As I have said, a good portion of the marks the grade 12 students now receive is based on departmental exams from Alberta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 368-13(4): NWT Arts Council Funding Guidelines

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, regarding the NWT Arts Council awards. In January of

this year, the Minister announced successful applicants of the NWT Arts Council, which consisted of 34 NWT artists and groups who will be receiving funding in the amounts of \$192,600 to carry out creative projects. Mr. Dent further indicated that the Arts Council plays an important role in nurturing and promoting the arts in the Northwest Territories. My question is: I would like the Minister governing this program to explain how the NWT benefits from some of these grants by promoting the development of arts in the NWT to third parties, when recipients of these grants are not required to be current residents of the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 368-13(4): NWT Arts Council Funding Guidelines

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Member has pointed out the objective of the program is to encourage the development of arts in the Northwest Territories. I am not aware of grants being given to individuals or groups who are outside of the territories. The information I have shows all of the contributions as having a municipality located in the territories beside the recipients name. I am not sure if there is a specific instance the Member wishes me to look at. All I can say is the Arts Council recommends to me who should receive these awards and I would expect they would have some basis or background for making their recommendation. If there is some specific instance the Member would like me to investigate, I would be happy to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 368-13(4): NWT Arts Council Funding Guidelines

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that response from the Minister. He had mentioned he was not aware of any awards being attributed to individuals or groups not living in the Northwest Territories. I ask the Minister if he could retract that and report back to the

House as to a list of groups that may have received funding that are living outside of the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 368-13(4): NWT Arts Council Funding Guidelines

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HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, the requirements for applying for funds are the person, group or people applying for funds must have been a resident in the Northwest Territories for two years before the application was made. I am not sure there is any way we can enforce whether or not somebody has left the Territories after they have been given the grant. I would ask the Member, if he wishes, after the House adjourns, to provide me with a specific name of a group or individual to look into. As I said, the information I have with me indicates all of the applicants had a Northwest Territories address when they applied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 369-13(4): Allocation of Polar Bear Quotas

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be asking a question in Inuktitut. My question is directed to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Minister Kakfwi. We are aware of and some of the Members, such as Mr. Ningark, have asked questions in the House. The question I have for the Minister is how do you allocate polar bear quotas to various communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 369-13(4): Allocation of Polar Bear Quotas

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the approach the government takes is to work with the Wildlife Management Board. We provide the necessary information and research and work with the boards to decide allocation of polar bear quotas. It is the Wildlife Management Board that makes the decision. It is a cooperative effort between ourselves, the federal government and members of the aboriginal groups that make up the wildlife boards. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 369-13(4): Allocation of Polar Bear Quotas

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How come there are different numbers of distribution amongst communities? Some communities have a larger quota and the communities that are more populated have less quota. Why is that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 369-13(4): Allocation of Polar Bear Quotas

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there is probably a reason for it. I am not aware of the reasons, but I would be prepared to inquire on the Member's behalf and provide him with the rationale the wildlife boards use to set the allocations the way they have. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 369-13(4): Allocation of Polar Bear Quotas

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Again, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question to the Minister is, how are the quotas set? In Canada we have so many polar bear quotas. For instance, in Greenland there is a number set. How is

the number set for the Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 369-13(4): Allocation of Polar Bear Quotas

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the polar bear population is listed as vulnerable, which requires we take some care in establishing exactly what the population is and the movement. We have done extensive research with the federal government and aboriginal groups, the users of the polar population, to establish exactly what the numbers and movements of these animals are. Jointly, with the communities using the Wildlife Management Board, we have established what we believe is a good, cooperative effort in setting what the annual take of these animals will be and allocating numbers to specific communities based on the information that is given to us by the communities and the aboriginal organizations. Aside from that, I have no specific information on why certain communities get the numbers they do. If the Member wishes, I can try to get that information for him. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 370-13(4): Hunter Traffic Between Rae and Colomac

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I made my Member's statement referring to the new problems of having an increased amount of hunters travelling on the winter road system from Rae to Colomac Mine. My question to the Minister responsible for Resource, Wildlife and Economic Development, Honourable Mr. Kakfwi, is the department providing any assistance to the band council to monitoring this road system to ensure hunters are following the proper rules and regulations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 370-13(4): Hunter Traffic Between Rae and Colomac

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that we are providing specific assistance this year to allow the aboriginal groups to have someone monitor, for their own information purposes, the activity on the particular winter road the Member is referring to. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

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Question 371-13(4): Use of Equipment at Delta House

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, in light of my motion to try and get reinstatement of funding for Delta House, I feel I need to try and continue to work with the Minister and the department in finding alternative revenue or funding sources for Delta House, so we can have some form of treatment program. Mr. Speaker, I would like the Minister to inform me if he has received any more information on the commitment he made to the board and staff of Delta House to allow them to use the equipment that was in the facility for approximately three months, I think it was, while they try and find alternate funding sources. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 371-13(4): Use of Equipment at Delta House

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did make the commitment to allow them to retain the usage of all capital equipment in the facility until at least June 30th and I further committed at that time that I would look at the possibility of not even requiring it to be returned to us, to keep it in the community for their usage. I was just checking into what the statutory regulations would be to allow that to happen. I have not heard back yet on that specific issue, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 371-13(4): Use of Equipment at Delta House

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform me if there is a certain amount of time we are looking at before he will have this information. Will it be fairly soon, a month, two months? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 371-13(4): Use of Equipment at Delta House

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since I made the commitment for June 30th, I did not think about whether or not to have the capital assets transferred back or left in the community was such a critical one timewise. Since the honourable Member has brought it up again, I will commit to finding out within the next couple of weeks what the status is on those assets, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 372-13(4): Post Division Power Corporation Structure

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. My question is, in light of the fact this a public utility that provides an essential service and is of significant interest to the people of the Northwest Territories, could the Minister outline the process that is going to be followed to get the input necessary to make a final decision on what the structure will look like after division? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 372-13(4): Post Division Power Corporation Structure

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the process would be to take a decision paper to the division committee and to Cabinet to get approval for the process as to how the Corporation would be structured going into division. Along the way, presentations and information sessions will be held with interested individuals and groups throughout the Territories to discuss the issue. The final decision, of course will have to be, like the budget, debated on the floor of this House. The government has taken a position and will be promoting that position just as we have in preparing a budget. It has to be approved by the Members of this House on the floor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 372-13(4): Post Division Power Corporation Structure

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When this decision paper is brought before the public and taken around, will it be with an eye towards getting feedback and seeing what the stakeholders have to say? As opposed to here is a decision paper we want to tell you about, but there is no feedback that we are really interested in. Will there be a chance for meaningful input from the stakeholders in the public?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 372-13(4): Post Division Power Corporation Structure

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Power Corporation is one of the assets that we will have to discuss during a division of assets and liabilities of the east and west. No, I do not think we had planned on a broad public consultation on this process. I think that we, in this House, act as representatives and spokespeople for the people that elected us, that we represent. I think we are expecting the discussion will

take place largely within this Chamber. As I said, the Power Corporation has itself already embarked on a process of advising people what the recommendation will be. The process is underway and it will come back to this House for the public debate.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 372-13(4): Post Division Power Corporation Structure

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MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate what he anticipates the time lines will be to the point where the paper with the position on it will come into this House for the debate he has just referenced? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 372-13(4): Post Division Power Corporation Structure

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this will obviously be tied to the whole division of assets and liabilities questioned for across the territories. It is not within my area of responsibility to set the time table for that. I expect it will happen relatively soon, certainly within the next 750 days or so. I would expect it will take place a lot more quickly than that. No, I cannot give a precise time table. I am hoping to move the process forward within the next few months if possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 372-13(4): Post Division Power Corporation Structure

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a critical utility and there is, from what I have heard, considerable interest from the people as to what is going to happen to this particular organization. The Minister is not able to be

very precise on the time lines. Could he indicate at least when it is brought forward it will not be buried, and sort of slid through? There will be an opportunity to debate this clearly identified in the plan so there is plenty of time for the people in the Northwest Territories and in the western Arctic, and the constituency I represent to have a full idea of what they are walking into after division? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 372-13(4): Post Division Power Corporation Structure

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not think anything is likely to be buried in this debate. I think there will be significant interest among all Members of this House as we talk about the issue of dividing assets and liabilities. It will be part of the overall package. I do not think it will be singled out as something individual.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, there will be parliament for specific legislation relating to the Power Corporation. It will provide an opportunity somewhat separate from the rest of the debate, if that is what Members are looking for. I would think that is the wrong approach. It is, as the Member has said, part of the overall division of assets and liabilities that we all need to take a look at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Picco.

Question 373-13(4): Funding For Revenue Initiatives

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Can the Minister inform me and this House if there are subsidies available or funding for new revenue generating ideas? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 373-13(4): Funding For Revenue Initiatives

HON. JOHN TODD:

That is a new one on me, Mr. Speaker. Subsidies for revenues? I wonder if my Honourable colleague, who is normally much more eloquent, could elaborate on his question so I can make some effort to answer on subsidies for revenues.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 373-13(4): Funding For Revenue Initiatives

MR. PICCO:

Yes, I was thinking about these other Russian replies, so I did not understand. Mr. Speaker, my question concerns revenue generating ideas from this department which falls on the Minister of Finance. I would like to know, does he have funding available to help organizations and communities find these new revenue generating ideas or subsidies to help offset the start up of some of these ideas to produce new revenue for the Northwest Territories government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 373-13(4): Funding For Revenue Initiatives

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not trying to be offensive. I do not understand the question. I will answer no.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 373-13(4): Funding For Revenue Initiatives

MR. PICCO:

Maybe, Mr. Speaker, I will try and go about it a little easier way for the patagonial mind of my friend. Is the Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd, looking at possible revenue generation initiatives with currently held GNWT infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 373-13(4): Funding For Revenue Initiatives

HON. JOHN TODD:

I have made a commitment to the House earlier that once this budget was passed, because we have put an inordinate amount of time into trying to manage our way through the fiscal problems we have, I committed we would look at revenue generation. I will commit again today, we are going to look at revenue generation. We will do it in conjunction with my honourable colleagues and others in this House as I committed when my budget was up before this House. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 373-13(4): Funding For Revenue Initiatives

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, do the revenue generating ideas Mr. Todd just mentioned include infrastructure, such as roads or airports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 373-13(4): Funding For Revenue Initiatives

HON. JOHN TODD:

What I committed to was to sit down with my colleagues and look at the potential for revenue generation right across the territorial budget. The reframe work, everything is on the table and certainly roads and airports, I would imagine that would be something we would have to give consideration. As I have said, we need to get through this budget to reprocess, balance the budget and then we can take the time to look at new areas that we can generate revenues. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 373-13(4): Funding For Revenue Initiatives

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me then, Mr. Speaker, in this revenue generating ideas of infrastructure, roads and airports, if some of those monies generated can go back into that community to support fire services or other community services that are needed for the safety of the public at large.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 373-13(4): Funding For Revenue Initiatives

HON. JOHN TODD:

Being the wise man that my colleague said I was, now I understand what the word means. I will say one thing for him, he is determined. I am not prepared to commit today, one way or the other. What I will commit to is working with the Members to take a look at revenue options this government can do, and then we will determine where these revenues will go.

I am not prepared today to commit if we get x-amount of dollars over here we will dump it over there. The fiscal circumstance of this government changes dramatically. We have not yet come to conclude the budget to re-exercise. Once it is concluded, and we know we can balance the budget, we will then proceed to look at new revenue generation, and where that money is spent. We should in fact be able to generate the revenues that my learned colleague indicates.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 374-13(4): Implementing Plan 2000

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, over the last few days I have asked a number of questions to the Minister regarding his proposed plan 2000, which would see an additional

2000 homes made available to the people of the north.

Mr. Speaker, after viewing the Minister's comments, I note that he did not give very strong assurance that the project or the initiatives would take place this summer in the east. It is not my intention to hound the Minister, but I will. My question is, will the Minister clearly provide assurances the program will be initiated in the east this construction season this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 374-13(4): Implementing Plan 2000

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, first I should clarify it is not a proposed plan. It is an actual plan we are implementing at this time.

-- Applause

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Bravo!

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

I will give him my assurance we are trying our best to meet the transportation deadlines, which are fast approaching for the eastern Arctic. We will be able to do some of the work this year, but not as much as we would like to. What we will do is make sure the eastern Arctic does not have a net loss for the region of transportation. Whatever materials are not able to make it this year will make it next year, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 374-13(4): Implementing Plan 2000

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not so much concerned about the equity of the initiative. I am sure the Minister will honour his commitments to make sure it is done fairly. My main concern is we

have some work in the communities this summer for the contractors and the people in the communities. The assurance I was looking for was just to make sure we would indeed have work regarding this initiative this summer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 374-13(4): Implementing Plan 2000

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, yes, even without this initiative the Housing Corporation was set to assist in the building of almost 400 units, work will go ahead and whatever extra work that we can do, we will do. I would like to assure the Member that we have officials in the Housing Corporation here and headquarters in the regions working just about around the clock trying to get this moving. We are aware of the

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urgency and the need, Mr. Speaker. With that I would like to give him my assurance again.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question period is over. I had to defer some of the questions of Members, identifying certain Members, because the appropriate Ministers were not here for those questions. I would appreciate it if the Government House Leader would ensure while question period is on that the Ministers remain so they can give all the Members the opportunity to ask those questions. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

The Ministers are under instructions to be here during the question period, Mr. Speaker. However, there are times when circumstances prevail, the Ministers are unable to be in the House as are Ordinary Members. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

We will recess until 1:30 pm.

-- Break

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. We are on item 7, written questions. 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 motion. 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. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters, Bill 8, Committee Report 2-13(4), Committee Report 3-13(4), Committee Report 4-13(4) and Committee Report 6-13(4) with Mr. Steen in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I would like to call the committee to order. Before the committee for consideration today, Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997-98; Committee Report 2-13(4) Standing Committee on Government Operations, Report on the 1997/98 Main Estimates; Committee Report 3-13(4) Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Report on the 1997/98 Main Estimates; Committee Report 4-13(4) Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development, Report on the 1997/98 Main Estimates; and Committee Report 6-13(4) Standing Committee on Social Programs, Report on the 1997/98 Main Estimates. If the committee agrees, we will continue with Health and Social Services.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to have witnesses present.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

The Sergeant-at-Arms may bring in the witnesses. Thank you. I would like the Honourable Minister Ng to introduce his witnesses.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman to my right David Ramsden, deputy minister to my left Warren St. Germaine, director of financial management services. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng and welcome to the committee. We were on page 6-14 on the main estimates, community programs and services, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, \$142,171,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday, the Minister indicated the maximum amount of times a person would be allowed to go to treatment would be three times. I know from speaking to people working within the alcohol and drug treatment area that one of the major problems in the past has been improper assessment of a person prior to going to treatment. I would like to know, since a person is only going to be able to go three times or thereabouts, I guess it has not been finalized yet, what is being done to improve the assessment of people going for treatment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we are trying to put more of an emphasis on that by having it done through one central point in the community, so there will be some consistencies in some of the pre-assessments of individuals requiring residential treatment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those people that are the central agency or the central point in the communities, would they all have proper training to ensure they can give advice and assess people properly?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the intent would be that they would be provided with some additional resources, primarily in the role of the regional alcohol and drug specialists, where that individual would be freed up from actually doing the assessment and referrals and they would provide support to the community individuals tasked with that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When will this come into place? I do not mean when actually this new policy will be started, but when or let us say, do the previous times a person has gone, will those count? Or are the one to three chances that a person have will that only now be starting? Will he be starting with a brand new sheet?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this would be a new referral process, so I would anticipate that it would be starting from a fresh slate. I would like to say that we are not saying, because the individuals have been there three times and failed to complete or successfully abstain, they would necessarily be deprived of the fourth opportunity per se. All we are saying is if it got to that point, where an

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individual did go through the program three times and still requires residential treatment, we would put more of an emphasis on some of the pre-assessments of that individual before he would go back for that fourth time. In other words, to make sure they are more prepared for undertaking the needs of the program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Total operations and maintenance, \$142,171,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we get final agreement, I do not want to jump in ahead of any more questions, but I have some motions I would like to make under this particular activity. If you could keep that in mind before we have the final agree, I will make the motions when questions are finished, if that is agreeable. Is that agreeable with the chair?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. That is the wish of the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Do you have any questions, Mr. Miltenberger?

MR. MILTENBERGER:

No thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of alcohol and drug and the funding spent in this area, is it divided into the areas of residential treatment aftercare and detoxification? If they are, what amounts are being spent in those areas?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Honourable Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the residential treatment side of things, it is approximately three and a quarter million dollars and it is approximately \$250,000 in the detox side that we call residential treatment. Over and above that is approximately \$3.9 million, if my memory serves me correctly, in community alcohol and drug programs

that provide some of the support services at the community level, the assessments, aftercare, pre-care and those types of program initiatives. As well, there is also approximately \$600,000 in the treatment side for the youth inhalant program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Ng. Honourable Mr. Roland for Inuvik.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there any amount identified for aftercare?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, not specifically but as I indicated it is in the community alcohol and drug funding of approximately \$4 million, where some of those services would be provided. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. I have total operations and maintenance, \$142,171,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday, the Minister did not have a chance to answer my question that I had asked him at the break. I wonder if he could answer it now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Chairman, I cannot, although I know some of the thrust of where the honourable Member was coming from, maybe for the record it would be better if he

could repeat his question so that we could try to properly address it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Erasmus, could you repeat your question?

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday, the Minister indicated that some of the money that goes to the regions for treatment would be paid on a per bed basis. Some of that money could also go to mobile treatment and perhaps other things, I suppose. He did not indicate anything else. My concern, Mr. Chairman, is the possibility exists that there is not one treatment centre that could get 100 percent of the money they are eligible for. If there is a fixed pot of money, some of that money can be used for mobile treatment and other things. I wanted the Minister to clarify whether or not the possibility exists that every one of the treatment centres we fund could be in a deficit at the end of the year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I believe I indicated yesterday, yes, that is a possibility. However, we recognize that issue and we had undertaken a process of monitoring the occupancy levels and the financial situations of the treatment centres, which I committed to, to ensure their financial sustainability was not adversely affected by the lack of clientele that would be going through those centres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Before I recognize Mr. Erasmus if he wished to ask another question, I would like to recognize in the gallery, the wrestling team from Gjoa Haven, coach Michael Ellsworth, wrestlers Joseph Konana, Silas Atkichok, Jonathan Puqignak, Kevin Tungilik, Mark Karlik and Stanley Porter.

-- Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

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MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday the Minister had indicated the communities might be able to use some of that treatment money for mobile treatment. Is there anything else the communities could use that money for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, theoretically they could use it for whatever they deemed as their priorities on the delivery of community wellness initiatives on behalf of their constituents. I did say yesterday and I will repeat again, we are going to be monitoring to make sure that if there is a need of individuals for residential treatment, they have access to residential treatment. A community could not arbitrarily say no, we will not provide any residential treatment to any of our constituents because we have a higher priority in other areas. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. According to the comment from my co-chair, Mr. Steen, Mr. Erasmus, you have final supplementary. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister had indicated they could use their money for mobile treatment, they could use their money for other things as well. He also indicated they would not refuse someone if they wanted residential treatment. What happens if, at the end of the year, this particular region has no money left because they have spent their money on various projects and there are still people who want to go to residential treatment? What happens then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess it would be no different than any other program they would be taking on our behalf. They would be

expected to manage their money prudently to make sure they had enough resources to meet the needs throughout the year. They would base it on the budget and historic trends of usage. I would think that if they did not have enough money for residential treatment because they used it up in other areas, they would be obligated to find those dollars for those individuals that needed the residential treatment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community programs and services. I have Mr. Miltenberger.

Committee Motion 17-13(4): Recommendation for Standing Committee Consideration of Alcohol and Drug Strategy

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under activity summary, community programs and services, page 6-14, I would like to make the following motion. I move that this committee recommends that the alcohol and drug strategy in the Department of Health and Social Services should not be implemented until the final strategy is considered by the Standing Committee on Social Programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. This motion is being circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had discussed this particular motion and we would appreciate if people would get to their seats. This is a very important motion that we are undertaking here. We want to ensure that plans are finalized and all is thought out before they implement it. We are seeking the support of all the Ordinary Members, as well as Cabinet of course. We know they would not want to implement a plan unless it was well thought out, so I am sure they will also lend their support to this motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to thank the honourable Member, Mr. Erasmus, for reminding the chair that Members should be properly seated in their seats. Thank you. To the motion. Are we ready for question to be called?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, lift up your hands. Down. Opposed? The motion is carried. Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

Committee Motion 18-13(4): Recommendation for Health and Social Services Support of Key FAS/FAE Priorities

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under activity summary, community programs and services, page 6-14, I would like to make the following motion. I move this committee recommends the Department of Health and Social Services support the two key priorities identified by the FAS/FAE strategy group.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the mover of the motion explain, for the benefit of the rest of us, exactly what this means? Briefly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. I am advised that no Member can ask a mover of a motion to explain. You can actually speak to the motion. To the motion. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Chairman, if I could just briefly speak to the motion. We are asking support for the department to pursue the two key priorities of an FAS/FAE strategy team that is working here in Yellowknife. Those priorities are to compile a comprehensive treatment program for pregnant women with substance dependency issues. The second priority is to develop and deliver a standardized, modular training program on FAS/FAE with materials in plain language to assist all the other communities in the north to deal with this very important issue that affects so many people and so many children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether this is going to involve an increase to this year's budget or not, but I would appreciate the mover of the motion, in his last response, identifying whether this is indeed an increase in the budget.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Chairman, if I speak twice, I am assuming I will conclude debate on the motion. The issue of support for this particular motion is more of a program issue. The recommendation is for the department to look at what they are currently doing and to find means of supporting this particular initiative with the resources they may have available but if there is some minor, additional funds required, you are asking if the department, under their \$250 million budget, try to free up sufficient capital to assist and support this particular initiative.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Again, I am advised that a Member can speak to a motion only once but, in committee of the whole, that would be at the discretion of the chair. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Question is being called. All those in favour, please signify. Down. Opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Miltenberger.

-- Applause

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Chairman, I note that the third motion was under detail of capital. We have not discussed that yet, so I shall hold off on the next two motions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The chair appreciates that. Next item, activity summary, detail of capital. Thank you. Community programs and services, operation and maintenance, total operation and maintenance is \$142,171,000. Agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister had indicated if a particular region ran out of money and someone still wanted to go to residential treatment, we have a notation that they would be obligated to find it. Would this money then come from another region, therefore, one region would be perhaps financing another region, or would they find it from within their own budget? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it would be expected to come from within that region's own resources, other programs within the regional board. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There have been a lot of complaints about people going to rehabilitation down south and the extra costs that incurs. Have we implemented some type of policy to ensure there is a minimum of people going to treatment down south?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, up until currently, all out-of-territory treatment has to be approved through Yellowknife, through headquarters. Under the new process that has been outlined for implementation April 1st, all referrals will be to northern facilities first. Out-of-territory referrals will only be allowed if the service is not available in the north, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the mobile treatment have the same stipulations, meaning if a community wants mobile treatment, are they going to have to get it from within the Northwest Territories first before looking down south to contract with someone for mobile treatment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, obviously, no, we would try to support having it done in the north. The onus would be on the boards to try to provide the treatment that they feel is most appropriate and most effective for them to deliver. I am not saying that we can guarantee that process, but with the current guidelines that we have we would think there would be enough local and regional pressure, if they were not adhered to supporting groups within their own region that were capable of taking on delivery of those programs. I think the onus would be on them to support them first, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what the Minister is saying, there is nothing stopping these regions from getting all their mobile treatment from down south, if that is what they wish, if they have the nerve to stand up to the complaints from people within their region. Is this correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The boards would have to abide by northern preference policies, the Business Incentive Policy that we have. If the service were available in the region in the north, they would have the first preference. If they were not to follow those guidelines and there were circumstances that came to light that service was available and they had contravened our policies, then we would take the corrective action that would be deemed necessary, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total operations and maintenance. Final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister for that clarification. That is not what he said in his answer before. In long-term care, there is no place in the Northwest Territories that offers long-term rehabilitation. I know people have been refused when they asked to go down south because of the policy to use northern facilities first. The treatment centres in the north only offer 28-day or 35-day programs, and there is no long-term care that some of the

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other ones down south provide. What are we doing for long-term care?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the treatment centres are aware of the different types of services that are not available in the north. When some of the reductions first impacted on them last year, they started to look at working together and working out different avenues of treatment programs they could provide to not directly compete with each other. I cannot say how much progress has been made in respect to that area, but I know it is an area everybody is aware of, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community programs and services. I have Mr. Picco.

Point of Order

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a point of order. I refer to page 12-71 of the unedited Hansard from yesterday. Where, in the process of asking questions with Mrs. Groenewegen, the chair, I read from the unedited Hansard. The chairperson said:

"Thank you, Mr. Picco. I would like to caution the Member with respect to challenging the Chair. I am deeply offended that the Member questions whether or not I have the ability to count to five. Having said that, I do not know where I was, that was four or five, so I will give you one more question."

My point of order, Mr. Chairman, was that if you count the questions, you will see I was only at question number three when that was said. I would ask the Madam Groenewegen, in the chair's direction, that an apology be forthcoming. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. I do not believe the honourable Member had a point of order or not. I will review the Hansard and reserve my ruling until the next sitting day. Thank you. Community programs and services, total operations and maintenance is \$142,171,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Agreed? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister's information that the treatment centres know what type of treatment is needed. I would like to know what this government is doing to ensure there is long-term treatment or care available in the Northwest Territories, if we are not sending people down south? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this government has met the needs of individuals, whether it is short-term residential treatment requirements, or whether it is more complicated, requiring longer term care needs. We have been sending individuals down south. If there were enough to sustain a program in the north, cost effectively, then I think we would have moved that way. As it stands now, we feel the numbers are not substantial enough to establish those longer term types of programs in the north. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community programs and services. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there is not enough clients to warrant a long-term care facility in the north, if we are going to be able to treat people that need that type of care, then we have to send people down south. Is this correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if the honourable Member has any specifics of individuals that are not being provided the care, in any area, then I would be happy to discuss those issues with him. I am not sure where the questions are leading to, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year a person was denied long-term care down south. As a result, that person's mother had to pay to send that person down south and to pay for him to be in the facility. His mother had to pay because that person was refused. If we do not provide long-term care here, then how

can they make sure treatment is available for everybody? There must be something wrong here. What is wrong? Was the worker wrong in refusing to send the person south? Would that be the case?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would be glad to speak on the specifics of the concerns he has with the individual. Not knowing the full details of why the individual was denied funding for southern care, for any type of programs, without getting into the details and the background of the individual case. Obviously this is not the forum to do that, Mr. Chairman. I will commit to sitting down with the honourable Member on that specific issue, to find out what did or did not happen in that particular case, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

My point is not that particular case. My point is I want to find out, on the record, whether or not long-term care is available to people. The Minister is not saying whether it is or not. We do not provide it here. If someone requires long-term care, will the department send someone down south and pay for it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe I did say it. If there are needs that are not available in the Northwest Territories for individuals needing treatment, no matter what treatment it is, then we are obligated to provide accessibility to those programs to try to remedy any problems individuals may have.

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Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community programs and services, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance. Final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the Minister be kind enough to inform the people that are doing the referrals from the central locations that if someone needs long-term treatment, they can refer them down south? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that services outside the territories that are not provided for in the Northwest Territories are available. If that is a problem, then I will deal with it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total operations and maintenance, \$142,171,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 6-15, detail of capital, community programs and services, building and works, headquarters, total region, \$831,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Mr. Rabesca.

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister a question regarding the update and the situation with doctor's housing in Rae. The staff housing is not up for sale. I was wondering what is happening with it? If it is anything to do with the land dispute or who own's the land and the reason why it is not up for sale yet? I just want to get information from the Minister. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as we know the staff housing policy and sales lies with FMBS. I do not know the particular circumstances the honourable Member is speaking of. If there is a problem there, I will certainly bring it up with the appropriate Minister and we can sit down with the Member and find out for him exactly what is happening. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, headquarters, total region, \$831,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, Fort Smith region, total region, \$1,930,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that Mr. Miltenberger served notice that he had a motion at that time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger is not in the House. If there is another Member who wishes to make that particular motion. Mr. Roland.

Committee Motion 19-13(4): Recommendation to Hold Fort Simpson Projects, Group Home and Violence Shelter Pending Final Decision on Use of Hospital

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a committee motion under detail of capital, community programs and services, page 6-15, buildings and

works, Fort Smith region. I move that this committee recommends the work on the proposed capital project for Fort Simpson adult group home and family violence shelter not proceed until final decisions have been made on the future use of the Fort Simpson Hospital.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. The motion is in order and it is translated. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Question is being called. All those in favour. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee looked at this and because there are a couple of other things that are undetermined as of yet in the Fort Simpson area, the committee felt that we needed some final decisions to be made before this should proceed. With this motion we are hoping to get a final decision from the department as to what is happening here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. To the motion. Are we ready for question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed? All those in favour? Thank you. Opposed? The motion is carried. Building and works, Fort Smith, total region, \$1,930,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, Inuvik region, total region, \$130,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Page 6-16, detail of capital, community programs and services, building and works, Kitikmeot region, total region, \$171,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Acquisition of equipment, headquarters, total building and works, \$3,062,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Acquisition of equipment, headquarters, total region, \$540,000.

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total acquisition of equipment, \$540,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Contribution, headquarters, total region, \$1,382,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Page 6-17. Detail of capital, community programs and services, contributions, Inuvik region, total region, \$395,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, could I get an explanation why the capital estimates for the Inuvik hospital for this year are less than what was in the budget for last year.?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, during the 1996-97 year, we did not spend all the money, so that would be carried forward. I hope that is what the Member is asking. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions? Inuvik region. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Well, Mr. Chairman, I am under the impression that in last year's 1996-97 budget, it was shown that for 1997-98, the expenditures would be within \$2 million range. I believe it was in relation to engineering costs. I am surprised to see that it is only \$395,000 now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Perhaps the Minister wants to respond. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is primarily an accounting issue. I will ask Mr. Warren St. Germaine to speak to it, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Warren St. Germaine.

MR. ST. GERMAINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What has happened with that particular project is the projected cash flows, the expected expenditures of change this year compared to this time last year when the last year's estimates were presented, with the carryover that is projected, there will be significant dollars available for the capital

project. But the additional funding needed is only the \$395,000 showing in this year's main estimates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Am I to understand then that the \$2,330,000 spent in prior years and the \$395,000 for this year are engineering costs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. St. Germaine.

MR. ST. GERMAINE:

No, in 1996-97 we have not spent the \$2.3 million that is shown in the main estimates prior year costs. This past year we only spent approximately \$200,000 for planning costs, role studies and preliminary planning work. We will be hoping to carry over \$2.1 million from last year's budget as a capital carryover.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions? Inuvik region. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, are these engineering costs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, no, they are not engineering costs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community programs and services. Final supplementary, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister then tell me what these costs are, if they are not engineering costs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, sorry for the confusion. I guess if things worked out in respect to defining the roles of what the Inuvik hospital is and Iqaluit for that manner, there will be some preliminary design, preliminary engineering work that would take place in this coming fiscal year, Mr. Chairman. To clarify, yes, some of the dollars that are allocated this year, \$395,000, for Inuvik, for example, will be lumped in with the anticipated carry forward of the \$2.1 million that was not spent last year, so there will be \$2.5 million per se for Inuvik for some of these planning and preliminary design work, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Detail of capital, community programs and services contributions, Inuvik region, total region, \$395,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much money will be available for the Inuvik planning this year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there would be the \$395,000 that are in this capital estimate before you now that we are discussing, plus the approximately \$2.1 million that would be anticipated to be carried forward into the next fiscal year, so a total of approximately \$2.5 million. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, Inuvik region, total region, \$395,000. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, so this prior year cost, the money is not spent. Is that what the Minister is saying?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Honourable Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct. It was appropriated last year, but only about \$200,000 has been spent of that \$2.3 million, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, Inuvik region. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Well, Mr. Chairman, I just have a problem with this. How can it be a cost if it is not spent?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Would you clarify, Mr. Minister?

HON. KELVIN NG:

I am not the Minister of Finance. I would just say that it is based upon being appropriated last year and because of the timing it was not done. That was the year the dollars were approved. I guess that is probably how our system works, it gets charged out in the year that it was approved, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, Inuvik region. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, can we get an indication from the Minister when he would know whether or not he could start the engineering design for the hospital?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is anticipated, optimistically, later on this fall. Once we get through the operational planning side of things and depending what rolls out of the strategic planning process, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik, Mr. Minister. Contributions, Inuvik region, total region, \$395,000. Do we agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We have an agreement. Contributions, Baffin region, total region, \$100,000. Agreed? Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of quick questions on the replacement of the Baffin Regional Hospital located in Iqaluit. I have also been following the line of questioning from Mr. Steen. Do I understand then that the \$3,240,000 to date has not been expended also in Iqaluit that were allocated in prior year costs and coming from the 1996-97 estimates \$2.639 million. Those were not expended and they are actually being lapsed. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

That is question number one. Mr. Chairman, there is approximately \$2.2 million of the Iqaluit prior year's cost that will be carried forward, not lapsed, into the 1997-98 year, to have \$2.3 million dollars available. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Can the Minister inform me and this House when he expects construction? He must have some type of guestimate for construction of both the Inuvik and the Baffin hospitals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

HON. KELVIN NG:

That is question number two, Mr. Chairman. I committed to trying to get these projects on stream and starting construction in 1998 and that is the timeline we are trying to work towards, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. I will do the counting.

-- Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been noting the Member's ability to count too. It is refreshing to see. On the \$100,000 that have been budgeted for the 97/98 capital estimates for the replacement of the Baffin Hospital, it does not seem to be very much. What is it being used for, Mr. Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. That was question three. Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I have indicated it would be 2.3 million that would be available this year, not the \$100,000 with the anticipated carry over. It would be for some of the role planning, of course some of the operational planning of the facility as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, what I take from what the Minister has just said, part of the cost of the Med-Emerg contract that is underway will be covered out of the operational costs or the capital estimates, monies, the \$2.6 million that the Minister just announced.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

No, it would not be part of the \$2.2 million carried over, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. This will be your final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is really good to see that people are keeping track of the questions in a numerical order. My final supplementary, my fifth question to the Minister concerns the hospital replacement in Iqaluit. Can the Minister confirm the total dollar values that have been transferred from the federal government to this territorial government for

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replacement cost of the Nunavut hospital? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. That was the very last question for you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the index transfer up to this fiscal year, \$11 million. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions. Baffin region, total region, \$100,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What types of things still have to occur before we know if construction will actually begin in 1998, as the Minister has indicated he hopes to do?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, primarily we have to know what programs are going to be delivered out of both facilities and how they will fit into health care systems, both east and west. We would have to have the programmable space based on those programs. We will need architecture drawings, engineering drawings, site locations, costing, construction cost, and most importantly securing financing, both from the federal government in respect to their obligations with the health transfer. Also, in respect to some of the possible private financing sources that would be required to bring these projects on line, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are dealing with Baffin region. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister indicated the possibility of private financing. Could he explain that a little bit more please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as we know, coming up with the total capital dollars out of our budget for both these major facilities will place an undue hardship on our capital program and on our fiscal resource of this government. We are looking at the possibility of having private investments to help pay for the construction of these projects, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would that private involvement only be for the construction or also for running the hospital?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, right now we are just looking at the financing for getting the hospitals built and ready as soon as possible, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. I have total region, \$100,000. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a committee motion under detail of capital, committee programs and services page 6-17. Total contributions of \$1,877,000. I move that this committee recommends a decision to be made on the Inuvik and Iqaluit hospital replacements, to allow the projects to begin no later than the fiscal year 1998/99.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Roland, your motion is not in order. It does not fit into the detail of capital specific line. You should wait until total contributions which is the next line. Mr. Roland, do you have a question as well as a motion? I recognize Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the hospital project is a major project in our riding. The Minister just told us the \$11 million today has been transferred from the Feds for the construction, I understand, specifically for the Nunavut hospital to be built in Iqaluit. My question to the Minister is: the \$11 million that has already been transferred by the Feds to this government, do we have to pay that money back to the Feds before we start our program, or is there any type of reimbursement in the original transfer agreement for that money?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. I have total region, \$100,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total contributions. Mr. Roland.

Committee Motion 20-13(4): Recommendation that Inuvik and Iqaluit Hospital Replacements Begin in 1998/99

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Strike number two. I would like to make a committee motion, Mr. Chairman. Under detail of capital, committee programs and services page 6-17, total contributions of \$1,877,000. I move that this committee recommends that a decision be made on the Inuvik and Iqaluit hospital replacements, to allow the projects to begin no later than the fiscal year 1998/99.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Henry. First of all before I recognize you, Mr. Henry, I have to ask the mover if he wants to speak to his motion. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This government has had an agreement with the federal government for a number of years now, since 1988, on the construction of the Inuvik and Iqaluit hospitals. In the time of restraint, we have

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run into difficulties to see this mature itself. As a committee and hearing the concerns from the communities both from east and western Arctic, the committee has felt this motion is needed to enhance the importance of these facilities going ahead, especially before division comes about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not clear what this motion is asking. Are you asking for a decision be

made as to whether these facilities be built or the facilities be built starting in 1999?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Henry, I will advise a Member should not question the mover, but you can put it in such a way as to ask him to identify your concern in his final response to speaking towards the motion. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will do that. I am not sure if the mover is suggesting a decision be made on whether both projects go ahead. If it is and he does not need a decision to be made, if that is what he is trying to say, I would think he wants the committee to recommend the projects go ahead no later than the fiscal year 98/99. I want to know if he is asking the Cabinet and if he could in his final remarks clarify that for me. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. To the motion, Mr. Miltenberger and Mr. Picco. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Chairman, this is a motion to support these outstanding commitments. To me the motion clearly says get the planning process done, which we are sure is going to justify the need for these two hospitals. We have to start construction and get ready to start building by 1998/99. I think that it is the commitment we are looking for and the support we are looking for in this motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past 15 months on numerous occasions I have raised in this House, and so has Mr. Roland, the need for our hospitals in those two communities. Mr. Chairman, the original 1988 agreement with the federal government was on the condition when the Health Canada transferred the responsibility for Health and Welfare to the territorial government that these hospitals would be replaced. Today in 1997, we find ourselves in the fiscal situation where we cannot build these hospitals. We have to access other alternatives

sources. Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that the Health Minister, Mr. Ng and Finance Minister, Mr. Todd, have been putting in a lot of long hours and have been co-operative with Mr. Roland and myself, to try to reach some kind of compromise. I have also met with the chair of the Baffin Regional Health Board and the CEO for the Baffin Regional Health Board in Iqaluit, with the Finance Minister to try to push this project. As the capital predictions show, it is a \$47,870,000 project that will have a major benefit to the people of the Northwest Territories, to the region and to the community. I would urge all Members to support this opportune motion in the spirit that it was presented. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very disappointed that Mr. Picco did not mention the rest of the Social Programs Committee, who have been working very hard on this project.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

To the motion. Do any other Members wish to speak to the motion? Mr. Roland, you have the last word.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee feels, with the plan happening right now and strategic reform, we would need a decision to be made and brought forward so we know what type of facilities and what programs will be offered in those new hospitals. That is why it is a two-part motion. There is a commitment to build the facilities. We are not asking for that commitment, that has been made in the House already. It is more on the area of getting the report and the decision made on the report so we can follow through with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. We are now ready for question. All those in favour of the motion, indicate. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried. We are back on total contributions, \$1,877,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total activity, \$5,479,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. I am on page 6-18, detail of grants and contributions, contributions. We will have to go to page 6-20 to see the total contributions, \$164,791,000. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the grants to foster parents association and foster homes, I wonder if the Minister could tell us if this funding that had been in place in '95/96, and I realize it was not in place in '96/97. Was there anything put in place in other areas to support the foster parents association? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not financially, Mr. Chairman. Just a concerted move to provide additional assistance through our child welfare specialists. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. I have total contributions. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just had a couple of points here on the grants and contributions. Mr. Chairman, there was a decrease in the rates for foster parents. That was upsetting. My question to the Minister on this section is where we are dealing with foster parents and

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foster homes, is there any contemplation by the Minister to try to reevaluate the situation and try to increase the foster care rates at this time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. The honourable Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, no. We did work with the Yellowknife Foster Parent Association in respect to reaching a compromise on reasonable rates that they felt were acceptable or more acceptable than what was proposed. We worked through that with them. We committed to providing some additional support to them and things are progressing well, Mr. Chairman. thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I remember this very well and I brought it up in the House several months ago. It concerns me to no end that when we deal with consultations, we deal strictly with people in Yellowknife. As the Minister is aware, there are several foster care families in our region of this territory, specifically in my community, who were not consulted and find the rates to be detrimental because of the higher cost of living. That was not reflected. I wonder if the Minister will, at least in the consultative process, consult with people outside of the centre of the universe here in Yellowknife? We do have costs and less amounts and the expensive rates of living in other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we do not just consult primarily in Yellowknife. We are aware of concerns outside of Yellowknife. We do have personnel that have ongoing consultations and discussions with foster parents outside of Yellowknife. We do recognize those concerns. Just to let the honourable Member know, there are also different rates for different areas, depending on the cost of living. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Details of grants and contributions. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on the family violence prevention services, I see the forecast is for the same amount of money that was expended last year. I wonder if there is going to be an increase for these front line workers for training and for professional development.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct. There has not been any additional funding put forward for these groups. We are hoping, with some of the social workers being freed up, that they will be involved with some of the initiatives of this government in respect to putting money into income support and community supervision, that some of the social workers can provide some additional support for some of these groups and individuals, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we all realize the fiscal problems, but it seems every other line that we look at in this government has some type of forced growth amount and increase in the same. We also realize, in the media and over the last weeks, here in Yellowknife, there was a problem with the family violence shelter not getting any funding. When I look at this line and see that the grant is still at the same amount, I know social workers might be able to help out, but what about their training, the professional development of these front line workers? The turnover is so high in these shelters because of the stress and the lower wages, it has caused some concern. Again, I would ask the Minister to find the monies to help these family violence prevention services and the women out there who are being abused and the workers in those facilities who are putting in long hours on the front lines and show some compassion from this government and take that into account. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we are trying to do all we can with the limited resources that we have. We recognize the dilemma that the honourable Member speaks of. We are hoping that when we get as many dollars as we can out into the communities, they will have an opportunity to move some of that money around and hopefully put money where their priorities are. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, do I understand that he will be doing some consultation with the different groups involved with family measures to find out how we can help with a bit more funding or how we can direct some other resources of this government to these groups and agencies over the next few weeks, to help them out. Is that what the Minister is telling me?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

No, Mr. Chairman, I am not. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Detail of grants and contributions. I will now recognize Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under addiction programs, I thought the Minister had indicated they were moving towards prevention. The addiction programs funding, which it says here is, "to deliver preventative educational counselling and to increase local awareness of addictions issues." This money is actually going down from last year. Could the Minister explain that a little bit please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am told, although the figures in this comparable figures have gone to the dollars, they actually have not because it has been, again, one of these internal reallocations from other areas that has gone into contributions. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems to me that if the focus is changing to prevention, that the money should increase. If the money is not actually increasing, is there some place else where there is more money being put into prevention?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in answer to that I would say that with the alcohol and drug community based funding of approximately \$4 million, we are removing a lot of the strings, the criteria, to allow a lot more freedom for community groups to take on some of the preventative programming to meet their needs, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. I have total contributions, \$164,791,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, the \$4 million the Minister just mentioned, is that the money normally used for rehabilitation treatment centres?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

No, Mr. Chairman, it is not. It is the community-based alcohol and drug program money. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total contributions, \$164,791,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total grants and contributions, \$164,791,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. Page 6-21, information item, active positions. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, on active positions, Inuvik area, this shows a reduction of 34 positions. Are those transfers? What are the remaining positions? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct, that would be because of the transfer to the boards. The 12 remaining positions are the territorial health insurance services administration. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Boards and management, page 6-22.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Information item, boards and management, 6-23. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Boards and management, 6-24. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Boards and management, 6-25. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

On page 6-26, active positions, boards and managements. Agreed? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I had asked the Minister for some information on his active positions the other day. I was wondering if he might have that available yet?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Chairman, I have to leave for a medical appointment. Mr. Todd will sit in, along with Mr. Ramsden, to answer the questions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Welcome, Mr. Todd. Mr. Erasmus, could you repeat your question for Mr. Todd?

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the other day I had asked the Minister for some information on his active positions. I was wondering if they had the time to look it up yet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, the department has had the opportunity to provide that information. I will ask Mr. Ramsden.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Ramsden.

MR. RAMSDEN:

In the department, there are 269 positions. Prior to the transfer in terms of aboriginal employees, our recollection is that it was an affirmative action related question, there is one southern aboriginal person, 26 indigenous non-aboriginal, 36 Inuit, 34 Dene, 26 Metis, 146 non-aboriginal people. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ramsden. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I got one southern person, 26 indigenous non-aboriginal, 36 Inuit, 24 Dene and what else?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ramsden.

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MR. RAMSDEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is 34 Dene, 26 Metis and 146 non-aboriginal.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ramsden. Active positions. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I had asked for management information as well. Did they get that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ramsden.

MR. RAMSDEN:

Mr. Chairman, in the department we broke it out in two ways, senior management being those people that are Hay Plan. There is one person that is

indigenous non-aboriginal and 14 that are non-aboriginal in the Hay Plan management level. Middle management, we broke out for the department as being those people that are at pay level 30 and above. There are two people that are Inuit, two that are Metis, three that are indigenous non-aboriginal and 25 that are non-aboriginal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ramsden. I have active positions, board and management. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Detail of work performed on behalf of others, page 6-27. The total department is on 6-28. Total department, \$7,660,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. Now we will turn to program summary, page 6-11. Program summary, Health and Social Services, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$242,204,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Capital, total capital, \$5,479,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total expenditures, \$247,683,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Does the committee agree that the consideration of the department's estimates is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses. If the committee agrees, we will take a 15 minute break before we proceed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you.

-- Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I would like some direction on how the Committee wishes to proceed from this point. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Chairman, I would recommend that we consider the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development next.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. The Committee agrees? Thank you. We will then proceed with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. I will invite the Minister, the Honourable Mr. Kakfwi for opening comments on the departmental estimates.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You have before you the very first budget of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. The total budget of \$92.7 million represents a real reduction of 11 percent from the total combined budgets of the three former departments. In the amalgamation of Renewable Resources, Economic Development and Tourism, and Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources, we have done our best to reduce in areas of administration rather than programs and to reduce in headquarters rather than regions and communities.

For example, you will note we have reduced corporate services by 21 percent while the budget for environmental protection has actually increased by 31 percent. The overall reduction of 20 percent in active positions has been accomplished by a 26 percent reduction in Yellowknife headquarters. A 16 percent reduction in the 10 largest centres and only a 6 percent reduction in smaller communities. We have also made significant moves to decentralizing budgets and decision-making authorities.

Prior to amalgamation, less than 30 percent of the budget was under regional control. In 97/98 more than 50 percent will be under regional control. Most of the residual headquarters budget is in the "Forced Management Activity" which is headquartered in Fort Smith. During the amalgamation I have sought the advice of many groups, including Members of this Legislature. Some were concerned our attention to protecting the land and wildlife would distract us from our immediate needs to increase economic opportunity in jobs.

Others were concerned that we may compromise the environment for short term economic gain. Skeptics have said that it is impossible to be responsible for an environmental mandate and promote economic development at the same time. Mr. Chairman, I say we can do both. We must do both and we will do both. Our land and resources must continue to be our source of our wealth. We must use these resources today but we must use them wisely so they will be there for our children in future generations far into the future.

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and establishes a higher level of commitment to northern employment and business involvement than has ever been made before. Mr. Chairman, we have faced a challenging year, managing the consolidation and absorbing a significant budget reduction at the same time. However, I am confident that with this behind us, the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is well-positioned to move forward with its mandate. I am optimistic about the direction we are proposing to take. I am encouraged by the commitment of the staff of this new department to the new direction.

So where do we go from here? Mr. Chairman, our first priority must be to make sure the land and resources of the Northwest Territories are managed in such a way they will be available to use for generations to come. The department will continue to work closely

with co-management boards in the study of management and conservation of wildlife and its habitat. Together we continue to provide models to the world for management of those resources.

We will also continue to work closely with our counterparts in other jurisdictions. For example, we have supported the development of a national accord for the protection of species at risk, in co-operation with other Canadian jurisdictions. This is to ensure that everything possible is done to prevent these species from becoming extinct as a consequence of human activity. The Government of the Northwest Territories has been and will continue to be committed to sound management of our wildlife resources.

As I have already noted, we have increased the budget of the Environmental Protection Service. A key priority of this activity will be to pursue partnerships with other government agencies, the association of municipalities and other private sector and energy management. The opportunities in energy conservation and energy alternatives will benefit the environment and reduce costs at the same time.

In March we will launch the development of the "Protected Area Strategy". The development of this strategy will involve staff from all divisions in the department, in partnership with federal departments, aboriginal organizations, industry and environmental groups. All areas of the north are special and all receive protection under laws of general application. However, there are areas of critical habitat, of special cultural, archaeological, scientific, historical, ecological or educational value.

There are areas of particular recreational or aesthetic interest. These areas must be identified and we need to look to establish measures to provide these areas with additional protection. The Protected Area Strategy, developed in a co-operative spirit, will give us a vehicle to do this. It is a commitment made under the Whitehorse Mining Initiative in 1994, and reconfirmed by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Premier and myself in 1996. This task, Mr. Chairman, will require the support and commitment of a diverse group of interests. The result will be our legacy to future generations.

Mr. Chairman, by ensuring that we properly manage and protect our land and resources, we can proceed with greater confidence to meet our economic challenges and pursue our economic opportunities. As we all know the challenges are great. Our population is growing faster than our economy.

People want jobs and opportunities so they can become more productive and self reliant. The need is greatest in our smaller level two and level three communities. This problem is compounded by our current fiscal crunch. Government finances cannot sustain economic growth. However Mr. Chairman, the opportunities are also great. Whether it is mining, renewable resources, tourism, arts and crafts, manufacturing, construction services or small business, every sector of our economy has the potential for growth and we must find better ways to harness this potential.

Government must use the resources we have in the most efficient way possible by reducing administration and overhead costs. We must target our efforts to those sectors that have the best potential and those opportunities that have the greatest need. We must find private sector partnerships which can compliment our efforts in bringing new investment dollars to the north. We must empower communities and individuals who can make better decisions about their own futures. Government must shift away from trying to design and manage our economy from the centre. We must move forward to a roll of providing a positive environment and the necessary support to communities, to the private sector and to individuals.

In the next few months, this department will be releasing a draft economic framework for discussion. This framework will provide information about the opportunities, strengths and challenges of every economic sector of the economy from a territorial, regional and community point of view. It will provide a basis for government, aboriginal organizations, communities, business and individuals to identify their opportunities and priorities and to identify the resources and programs they will need in order to succeed. The economic framework will provide a foundation for partnerships in improving the effectiveness of our economic policies and programs, from identifying and managing resources to improving access to business financing, to market development.

The framework will also help strengthen the links between our economic potential and workforce development. The provision of infrastructure and our regulatory and tax regimes. The economic framework will assist government, communities, business and individuals to make better economic decisions. Mr. Chairman, in the context of the framework, the department will also be pursuing several key economic initiatives. I would like to highlight a few of these.

An additional \$500,000 has been budgeted to expand the community futures program to all regions. Community Future Societies in the Baffin, Keewatin, South Slave and Inuvik region provide funding and decision-making authority to community-based boards. These community future organizations are able to combine their resources, in partnership with other agencies, to work more effectively and efficiently in addressing local and regional priorities.

The Keevalik Partners in Development is a model of partnership. This organization brings together the department, Sakku, NTI and the federal government to provide a single window for business in lending contribution, training, marketing, research and infrastructure programs of the

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partners. As a logical extension of Community Futures, promoting and supporting community economic development will be a departmental priority.

Community economic development is a model where communities take responsibility for their own economic planning and decision-making. The role of government is to provide resources, information and support. Mr. Chairman, the Northwest Territories Development Corporation was established to create jobs in communities where the need is greatest and where private sector opportunities are limited. It has done so by establishing subsidiary companies and subsidizing start-up and operations costs. The Dev Corp. now has 21 wholly owned subsidiaries, creating jobs in manufacturing, arts and crafts, food processing, forestry and retailing. In this budget, an additional \$500,000 will be allocated to the Development Corporation. The corporation's priority is to move existing subsidiaries towards greater self-sufficiency by increasing their efficiency and by aggressive marketing to enhance sales. Ideally these businesses will eventually achieve profitability and will be turned over to the private sector. This will in turn maintain existing jobs and free up money for new investments. In keeping with our goal of empowerment, the Development Corporation will also be increasing local authority and accountability for decisions about existing funds, in future subsidiaries. Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Finance provided information to Members on the Aurora fund and other initiatives to foster trade and investment in the Northwest Territories. The department will be complimenting his work by pursuing actions to improve access to investment capital. This will include a review of the roles of commercial lenders, the

Business Credit Corporation, the NWT Development Corporation, community futures, the Aurora fund and others. To investment capital supports all economic opportunities.

In order to improve the investment climate, it is a priority of the Government of the Northwest Territories to reduce regulations and policies that create an unnecessary burden on the private sector. I will begin work with the Minister of Finance on the government-wide review of regulation. This does not mean that we will lower our standards or compromise protection of public safety, the environment, or consumers. Our aim is to clarify the rules and reduce unnecessary cost of red tape, for the business, the government, and individuals. The department is co-ordinating a broad range of government initiatives to commercialize, privatize, or devolve government functions which provide services the private sector can deliver with greater efficiency. Mr. Chairman, Cabinet has directed, I collaborate with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and the Minister of Finance, on fast-tracking the development of northern employment strategy.

This will build on the labour force development plan aimed at preparing our work force for emerging employment opportunities and on the economic framework aimed at enhancing these opportunities. Mr. Chairman, at the end of the day our success will be measured by the creation of new jobs and other productive opportunities which allow people to become more self-reliant, looking at business opportunities, jobs, the wage economy, opportunities to pursue traditional activities such as trapping, sealing, hunting, fishing, and cottage industries. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development has an ambitious agenda. The Protected Area Strategy, the economic framework, the northern employment strategy stand out as three of our most significant initiatives. We must continue to do well, those things that each of the former three departments did well.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, there have been significant changes as a result of the creation of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. However, I believe with these changes we are in a better position to meet the challenges before us. The support of all Members for our budget and the work ahead will ensure our success. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. I will now ask for comments on the committee's re-evaluated departmental estimates. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The proposed budget for this newly consolidated Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development has been identified at \$92.669 million. When compared to the revised forecast for 1996/97, this equals an overall reduction of \$16.427 million. As a result of the amalgamation exercise, more than 93 positions have been eliminated and regional spending authority has increased to over \$47 million.

Forest Fire Centre - Fort Smith:

While reviewing the 1997/98 business plans, the committee questioned the Minister regarding the Forest Fire Centre in Fort Smith. Members identified that although forest fire operations are seasonal, this centre remains open on a year-round basis. After discussing this issue at length with the Minister, it was agreed the department would review the situation and develop options for potential cost savings. Members look forward to receiving this review as well as any recommendations that may come out of the evaluation.

Federal Bill C-65:

Members noted that the federal bill "The Endangered Species Protection Bill" would legislate the management of endangered species back to the federal government. Members agreed that this was not only an intrusion into territorial jurisdiction, but that it could also contradict current and/or future land claim settlements. Given that, Members recommended the following:

The standing committee recommends that departmental staff work with their federal counterparts to ensure that the proposed Federal Bill C-65 receives the required amendments. The committee further recommends that the GNWT ensure the involvement of its aboriginal partners throughout this process.

NWT Development Corporation Funding:

In reviewing both the 97/98 business plans and the 97/98 main estimates, Members noticed a proposed increase to the overall budget of the NWT Development Corporation of some \$500,000. Members were concerned with this proposed increase as it was only last year that the standing committee

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recommended the Development Corporation's budget be reduced by \$100,000.

Mr. Chairman, I would now like to pass the further reading of the report to Mr. Kevin O'Brien, the deputy chair of our committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Member for Kivallivik, Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Ootes.

Reviewing Investments:

Members noted that total contributions to the NWT Development Corporation and the Business Development Fund are now in excess of \$13 million. In these tight financial times, Members felt it was only prudent to review any and all investments being made by these organizations. Based on this, the committee recommends the following:

The Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development recommends that any company in which the NWT Development Corporation has a controlling interest provide the department, and subsequently the standing committee, with financial statements on an annual basis.

The committee expects to review most, if not all of these statements during the next round of business plan development.

Members appreciated the information provided by the Minister on the Business Development Fund and would like to acquire more background information on the numerous companies being funded under the program.

NWT Arctic Tourism:

Members were concerned that funding for the NWT Arctic Tourism Association had been significantly reduced, primarily due to the sun-setting of the Economic Development Agreement. The committee would however, like to remind the Minister that this organization not only creates numerous jobs in the NWT, but also promotes community based tourism and helps to increase the overall profile and awareness of the north. Members felt that funding

organizations such as this would provide long term benefits to the NWT and should be viewed as an investment in our tourism future. Based on this the committee recommends the following:

The Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development recommends that the Minister make every effort to return this organization's funding back to historical levels.

Mineral, Oil, and Gas Consultant Funding:

While reviewing the 1997/98 business plan, Members noticed the inequitable distribution of funds under this item. Of the \$1.362 million budget, 78 percent was identified for headquarters. Given the importance of mineral, oil and gas exploration to the economy of smaller communities throughout the NWT, the Committee made the following recommendation:

I will now ask James Rebesca to complete the report. James?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Member for North Slave, Mr. Rebesca.

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Parks Trust:

Members were most interested in the idea of a Parks Trust as proposed by the department. Under this system, funds could be allocated to a "trust" from a variety of sources including the government, the private sector, aboriginal organizations, interest groups, etc. This system would put the management and control of parks outside of government and would increase both responsibility and accountability. Members understand that such a trust is currently only an idea, but would like to see the department pursue the initiative.

Protected Area Strategy:

Members were also interested in the idea of having the department develop a Protected Areas Strategy. With assistance from the federal government and input from all northern stakeholders, this type of strategy would identify those areas most fragile and in need of protection. Members felt this was especially important given the current and possible future

mineral exploration/development in the Northwest Territories.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Rabesca. I will now ask the Minister if he wishes to bring in witnesses? Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Does the committee agree? You may bring in the witnesses.

I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Kakfwi, if he would like to introduce his witness?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me on my left, the deputy minister for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Andrew Gamble.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Welcome to the committee, Mr. Gamble. I now open the floor to general comments from the Members. Are there any general comments? Mr. Ootes.

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MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to first of all make reference to the committee's report regarding Bill C-65. There have been some recent developments that make our recommendation somewhat moot and I would like to provide an update on these recent events. I believe the Minister has already spoken in the House on this.

Regarding Bill C-65, a number of parties made representations regarding this bill to the Federal Standing Committee on Sustainable Development. Most of these parties echoed the territorial government's concern that the proposed bill would legislate the management of endangered species from the NWT back to the federal government. The standing committee has now completed its work on the bill and the bill has been revised, so that authority for managing endangered species remains at the territorial government level, at the GNWT level. I thought I would provide that to start with, Mr. Chairman, as clarification for everyone.

Regarding the Minister's statements, I would like to make reference to a number of areas and one was

the area of consolidation of the department. It did require a great deal of work on the department of many officials, and including our Committee, who had to deal with looking at the pros and cons with consolidation. I think there are still some rough edges within the department that the officials do need to work on. I understand one area is the vacancy rate, at the moment within the department is a critical area.

The agreement with BHP, we were certainly all very pleased that this was achieved but it did demonstrate that we need, here in the territories, a more streamlined process for large corporations like BHP to do business in the north. We need refinement and a clearer way for them to start operating in the territories. This was a particularly challenging and onerous two years that the company was put through and had it not been for the fact that diamond mining is very lucrative, it is my belief the company would not have stayed to conclude its business in the territories. It was very, very challenging for them. As I say, I think it was in their interest because of the value of diamond mining and the profitability of it, that they were able to do so. But had it been a marginal operation, a small gold mining operation that was put through these types of hoops, then I am not sure that particular company would proceed. Anyway, my point is we need to pay attention to the regulations and the streamlining of the process for companies, hence the need for us to address the northern accord which I would like to know where we are going with that. What is happening, because I have not heard a thing about it in the recent months. So, perhaps when we get into detail on the consideration of budget, we could have the Minister address that particular area.

The Protected Areas Strategy, again, I was very pleased with the Minister's statement yesterday regarding the effort to draw together in Inuvik all parties that may have a concern in this area. It is of concern to the mining industry and exploration companies because they want to know what lands are available and what lands are not available. It is therefore important for all parties to settle this. Also, there is, of course, an urgency to have the land claims settled fairly and quickly, so that companies know who they can deal with in respect to accessing land.

Regarding the economic side of the department which is responsible for tourism, arts and crafts, manufacturing, small businesses, I would like to have the department put forward a strategy to better encourage this whole sector, we are not putting in this budget. We have a budget of \$1.2 billion. Sixty-two percent is being devoted to the social envelope area.

This particular budget of this department is smaller than certain sectors of the major departments of Social Services and Health and Education, Culture and Employment. Yet this department is the only department that is working on job creation from the perspective of outside government job creation. I am glad to hear the Minister is working closely with the Minister of Education to tackle the problems of a job strategy and job education, because we have a need for identifying where the jobs will be in the future, so our education department can concentrate its efforts on where to provide training and education. I am very pleased to hear the Minister is working closely with the Minister of Education on that.

Regarding the NWT Development Corporation, there are now 21 wholly-owned subsidiaries which create jobs in manufacturing, arts and crafts, et cetera, food processing and forestry. However, while these corporations were established and there is a desire certainly and an important area for the corporation to play a part in job creation, that should not be the sole reason for its existence. We must have this Development Corporation create companies that become profitable. Profitable companies will continue to exist in the future. If we cannot continue to support these companies financially through the Development Corporation, then they will fail in the long run. It is imperative that we give attention to this, to ensure companies take the approach that their first priority should be to create a profit. If we create good employment and sustainable employment as a result, that is the purpose of it. I am pleased to see the Aurora fund again. We do have an area through the Business Credit Corporation, the NWT Development Corporation and Community Futures, as well as the Aurora fund, an opportunity for northern individuals and companies to access funding for the private sector.

Mr. Chairman, the reality for us in the territories is government will no longer will be a growth sector. It has to be private enterprise. This particular department is ultimately going to be extremely important to all northerners. It is my feeling that we have to look at providing more funding for this whole economic stimulation sector. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. General comments from Members. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my general comments will be based on the Minister's report. I am interested in the areas of particular recreation, aesthetic interest. We need to identify these and establish measures to provide them with additional protection. I am interested in that and how we would go about achieving some of these items and I guess establishing locations as well. I am interested to see if those are already named or if there is a way of doing that.

Also, I am concerned in the area on page five of his introductory statements, people want jobs and opportunities to

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become more productive and self-reliant. The need is greatest in smaller level two and three communities. I have a concern there. There has been an effort through the reduction to do most of the hits in the larger communities. I am using Inuvik as an example. Hopefully, there will be opportunities created through this department that would include the community of Inuvik which is considered a level one community. I hope there will be initiatives in that area as well or that we will be able to share in some of the programs that are available to level two and three communities. In the community of Inuvik, because it is classified as a regional centre, most of the hits have come through the regional centre itself.

My comments will be short, but in the area of privatization and initiatives to commercialize developed government functions, I am interested to see what initiatives are going to be undertaken and what areas and timelines are given to these. I believe it is good for both employees and the private sector to be aware of these, that if there is an opportunity to be taken full advantage of by the community people and even employees that it would be affected by these decisions. It would be good to see, as we go down the road, more activity in the area of good creation in all areas. As we have said before, we have heard it many times in this House, the government can no longer be the engine of the economy, but hopefully we can provide the gas for the vehicle to move down the road, so we can try to become the stimulator of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. General comments by Members. Are there any further general comments? Does the committee wish to proceed with the detail of the estimates?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. We will still go over program summary. We will start on page 11-10. Corporate management, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$9,305,000. Mr. Ootes. I believe you had your hand up, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could tell us what the present staff level is of the department and how many staff were reduced in this particular department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I answered that question during question period. I do not have the figures here with me. I think we said there is a total of about 73 vacancies in the department. It appears abnormally high. Normally the average would be somewhere around 20 to 30 vacancies. The reason it is so high is because we are holding these newly created jobs for over 50 effected employees within the department, who we wanted to give the first opportunity to fill these jobs. Over 52 employees, I believe, have chosen not to apply at this time and have chosen layoff, so we are now in a position to start advertising these jobs to give people in the public an opportunity to apply for these positions. That is the current situation with the vacancies. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it does seem abnormally high. If I heard the Minister correctly, there are 70 vacancies and many individuals who are not applying. I am wondering if the Minister could tell us

how many of these positions have been filled, are term or casual?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Twenty-sever casual positions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Could the Minister tell us the number of employees that did not apply for positions? Has the Minister looked into the reasons why there are so many vacancies and why individuals are not applying for the positions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are getting into the detail that is available on page 26. The reason the number of vacancies is so high is because we froze hiring in the three departments last March, when the amalgamation of the three departments was announced. We have also reserved first opportunity for affected employees of which there are 163 in the three departments. There were 163 employees who were affected as a result of the amalgamation. There are 163 people whose job was going to be changed a little bit or whose job was no longer going to be in existence, who were given first opportunity to apply for similar jobs or a new job within the department. Clerical staff, for instance, some positions were eliminated but new ones were created, but they were still defined as a different job. We had to go through a process of allowing people to apply for them. We held those within the department. Many of them were resolved without any difficulty. Some 52 employees of the 163 chose voluntary layoff. While we are holding a number of positions for them to apply for in the hopes that most of them will fill these new positions, 52 of them chose not to. That is what created the abnormally high number of vacancies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. I am on page 11-10, corporate management, operations and maintenance. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions are following the same lines, vacant positions. The Minister has explained the number of positions that are affected, that changed slightly. I am just wondering, has the department given much consideration as to why, in these economic times with extremely high unemployment rates right across the country, 50 people would chose to give up their jobs? Has there been any study or analysis within the department as to why these people chose to quit their jobs at the consolidated department?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Minister Kakfwi.

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HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I know a number of employees have decided to retire. A number of employees have decided they are not interested in working in a new department. They have found jobs in other parts of the country, have decided it is time for a change and decided to move on. There have been no involuntary layoffs within the department. People have seen the layoff package offer and decided it is something they are interested in and decided to take it. I know there were a couple of biologists that have said, based on principle, they have chosen not to apply for new positions or recriment positions in the new department. Those are the only reasons that I can give to the Member at this time. If there was some way we could do a more measured survey of the reasons why people come and go, I would be prepared to see if we could put something together for Members, if there is substantial interest in it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am wondering if the Minister has had any expressions to department staff that the uncertainty of what is happening in the government had much to do with this number of

people deciding they did not want that uncertainty and the pressure that comes with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, as someone who goes through an election a number of times in my life, I know how stressful it is when you are not sure if you have a job or a role to play. I have always been very sympathetic to employees when there is an exercise of amalgamation or budget reductions or downsizing. It causes havoc to the morale of staff. Staff feel their contribution to the government is substantial and believe in their work and are totally committed to it. When we come along and cut \$10 to \$20 million from our budgets and we lay off staff and we do it over a period of months, it is very difficult for staff. I have no doubt in my mind of the 52 that have taken voluntary layoff, some of them may very well not have taken well with the suggestions their worth is not totally appreciated by this government. Their contribution is being questioned. We think there are better ways of doing the jobs they think they have been doing very well for us in the last few years. Yes, it is probably a contributing factor. How much and to what degree in each individual case, I do not think we will ever know. I can readily acknowledge it has probably been a contributing factor in the decision of some of our staff to take voluntary leave. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe those were very sincere comments on the Minister's part. I think he is probably accurate in most of that. The Minister said that there were 50 positions available. How many of those positions are directly related to the tourism area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, we have some information here, but I am not certain I could give the detail the Member

requests. Perhaps when we go through the actual positions in headquarters, active positions, listed in a page further down in the main estimates. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. I believe it would be more appropriate to address those types of questions to that section of the department's budget. Mr. Henry, do you have any further questions?

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question, I was more interested in knowing the number, not necessarily the number of people but I wanted to know what impact the Minister feels that if there are a number of people required in the tourism area. We are fast approaching the end of February and I would suggest it is probably a six week process to get somebody in place. There is a steep learning curve just to get ready for your department. You may be an expert in the area, but coming into a new job, there is a long learning curve. If there are a number of positions available, what impact does the Minister think there will be on tourism for the Northwest Territories for the upcoming year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. It will require a little more time to give a detailed response to it, but I know the whole parks sector of the budget is still there. We are putting money into enhancing parks for the purpose of enhancing our facilities for tourists. Throughout the north, we have continued to contribute a substantial amount of money to the tourism associations, the one in the east and the one in the west, in working with them to make sure they are able to make maximum use of the available dollars and resources and support we can lend them to enhance the north for the purpose of tourism. As well, you should note the entire original staff of Renewable Resources, namely the wildlife officers, are now mandated and requested to take on a greater role in dealing with tourists. They are not just enforcement officers, not just officers dealing with trappers and hunters and HTAs. They are, in many ways, our front line in dealing with visiting tourists and enhancing our ability to relate to

the tourist at the ground level, at the community level.
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. I have one more question from Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you. Not today, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. I have Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Picco. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien, are you requesting that I recognize a quorum? If not, it is not necessary to have a quorum to put forward a motion. It is only necessary to have a quorum when you vote on it. Mr. O'Brien.

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MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Chairman, my motion was to report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

In that case, Mr. O'Brien, your motion is not debatable. I will see if I have a quorum here. We have a quorum. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? Down. Opposed? The motion is carried. I will rise and report progress. I would like to thank the Minister and his witness.

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 THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Speaker, your Committee has been considering Bill 8, Appropriation Act 1997/98 and Committee

Reports 6-13(4) and 4-13(4). I would like to report progress with four motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Seconded by Mr. Arlooktoo. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

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

Orders of the day for Monday, February 24th, 1997:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriation Act,
No. 3, 1996/97

- Bill 11, Loan Authorization Act, 1997/98

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration of Committee of the Whole of
Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 2, Justice Administration Statutes,
Amending Act

- Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997/98

- Bill 9, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1996/97

- 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

- Committee Report 6-13(4), Standing
Committee on Social Programs 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, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned
until Monday, February 24th, 1997, at 10:30 a.m.

--ADJOURNMENT