



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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Day 30

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HANSARD

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Jim Antoine, Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, Mr. Barnabas, Honourable Charles Dent, Mr. Enuaraq, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Honourable Samuel Gargan, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Honourable Don Morin, Mr. Ningark, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Honourable Manitok 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. Ningark. Good morning. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 62-13(4): Recognition Of Aboriginal Community Governments

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On February 4, 1997, I met with members of the Aboriginal Summit together with my Cabinet colleague, the Honourable Jim Antoine. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss a number of issues of mutual concern. During the course of our discussions an issue emerged regarding the extent to which the Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes band councils and Metis locals.

Mr. Speaker, it was suggested that it would be useful if I could clarify the government's position for the public record regarding our recognition of community aboriginal governments. I agreed to do so. It is for that purpose that I stand to make this statement today. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state firmly and clearly that the Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes the band councils, Metis locals and Inuvialuit community corporations of the communities as institutions of aboriginal governance. Indeed, these institutions are the current structures of self-government.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 63-13(4): National Child Benefit

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week the federal Finance Minister announced the National Child Benefit. This program will provide families whose income falls below a certain level with a benefit for each child under the age of 18. It will combine federal tax credits and low-income benefits into a single initiative to reduce child poverty. The program will ensure income support levels for children whose parents choose to work are not reduced. The announcement enables each province and territory to begin talks with the federal government to identify how each jurisdiction's income support programs will merge with the national program.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment will be the territorial government's lead department in negotiations with the federal government, working in co-operation with the Departments of Finance and Health and Social Services. The two major issues facing us are: ensuring that the high cost of living in the north is taken into account when the income levels for the program are set, and determining how to re-invest income support money that is freed up through the program. This re-investment plan will focus on approved programs directed at children, such as early intervention and child care, as well as work incentives for parents.

Mr. Speaker, negotiations with the federal government, and a draft program design, should be finished by June. The federal, provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for social services have agreed to release information in the spring that will focus on how the program will be designed, as well as other issues. A process for national public feedback will be proposed.

The National Child Benefit Program is proposed to start July 1, 1998. However, the federal government, provinces and territories are working hard to advance this date. I note also that the federal government will increase the working income supplement on July 1 of this year as an interim measure. At this point, we are not sure how the National Child Benefit will impact northerners. Education, Culture and Employment staff

will be keeping track of the program as it evolves to assess the benefits for Northwest Territories residents.

Income support reform in the Northwest Territories is based on the principle that people should be better off working than collecting income support. The National Child Benefit is intended to help level the playing field between income support recipients and the working poor. I will keep the Assembly informed of progress on this initiative in the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 64-13(4): Training Northern Ferry Captains

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to tell the Members of the success the Department of Transportation's marine services division is having in training northerners as captains on our ferries. By regulation, the people who operate our public ferries must be fully qualified ship's captains holding a Master of Minor Waters certificate issued by Transport Canada. In the past, the department's ferry contractors could only find properly qualified captains in southern Canada on the east and west coasts. A few years ago, the marine services division began encouraging young northern deck hands, who showed promise and interest, to seek their Master of Minor Waters certification and become ferry captains.

The Pacific Marine Training College in North Vancouver, British Columbia, offers a six-week course for the Master of Minor Waters certificate. The recruit's travel, accommodation and tuition costs for the six-week course are paid for by employment insurance and matching 50/50 contribution from the Department of Transportation and our ferry contractors.

Captain Ian Leishman of Fort Providence graduated from the Pacific Marine Training College in 1995 and has since served two seasons as captain of the MV Merv Hardie at the Fort Providence crossing. Captain Mervin Simba of Kakisa earned his Master of Minor

Waters in 1996 and served as relief captain last year on the Merv Hardie at Fort Providence, the Lafferty at Fort Simpson and the Johnny Berens at the Ndulee crossing.

This year, two of my constituents, Sean Cli and Steven Lenoir of Fort Simpson are at the Pacific Marine Training College and will complete the Master of Minor Waters course at the end of this month. Ron Antoine, also of Fort Simpson, entered the Marine Services training program this summer. He worked as an oiler at Fort Providence on the Merv Hardie accumulating eligible time towards certification as a marine engineer.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with the success of the Marine Services training program in opening professional career opportunities for northerners. I am sure that Members of this House are with me in looking forward to the day when we can crew our ferries entirely with northerners and we no longer look to southern Canada for qualified personnel. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Public Housing Rental Policy

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to tell the Members of this House another story. This is a story about a strong woman struggling to make a good life for herself and her children. It is also a story about her illogical landlord. Years ago this woman had high hopes for the future. She got married and had four children. Then things went wrong. Her husband left her and the children. Although the courts said he had to make support payments, he never did. Rather than give up, she found a job, rented a home for her family and worked to provide a stable and healthy life for her children. Money was always tight with seldom any extras for small treats. Still she paid her rent and kept her kids well fed and clothed. Her landlord knew about her circumstances and charged her a rent he thought that she could afford on a small income.

In November, she got sick and had to miss many days of work. Unfortunately, her boss could not afford to pay sick days but he did keep her job for her until

she came back to work. Her income was much less that month. Still her landlord said he had to charge her regular rent based on what she should have made. He could not lose any money just because she had become sick. In December out of the blue, a large cheque arrived from her ex-husband. Surprised and pleased that there would be a better Christmas this year, she told her landlord about the income. He quickly told her that her rent for that month would go up a lot because she had more income. She pleaded saying that this was the only payment received in an entire year and why was he considering all the income in one month and charging her such a high rent? But he would not relent.

Mr. Speaker, this sounds like a silly story. Unfortunately, if you are a single parent living in GNWT public housing, this is a true story. It makes no sense to me that we have a housing rent possible which penalizes you one month if you get a temporary additional income and ignores the unavoidable temporary decrease in income the next month. It also makes no sense to me that this government would penalize someone for receiving a single maintenance payment in one year. We should be looking at the circumstances of spreading that income out over the year when making a rent adjustment. This would make the total rent adjustment much less. We need to take a hard look at the public housing rent policy in view of some of these circumstances. Some of the rules seem very unfair and inconsistent with our government's programs designed to make people more independent. Other rules penalize people for misfortunes beyond their control. Mr. Speaker, for every person like this that we hear about, there are others afraid to speak out and I do encourage the Minister to look closely at this policy and make the necessary changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Page 881

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Members' statements. Mr. Enuaraq.

Member's Statement On Work Performed at Fox 2 Station

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning colleagues. (Translation ends.) Mr. Speaker, in this House, Members show a lot of concern for language differences. Many of us from Nunavut spend a lot of

time helping unilingual constituents get information and solve problems. Recently, I have been working on behalf of two people from Broughton Island. They have experienced difficulties at least in part, because they are unilingual. I would like to share their story. In 1969, two people from Broughton Island were offered some work at the Fox 2 station. They worked for about six weeks, shovelling and digging out 45 gallon drums and loading them on a plane. Their understanding was that the pay was going to be \$100 per day. The problem is that they apparently did not receive a pay cheque for this work.

During the 1970s, Commissioner Hodgson was approached by these two people on one of his visits to their community. As a result, they were each paid \$300 and told the balance would be paid once the records were located. They have heard nothing, Mr. Speaker. Although previous MLAs and many staff have tried to find the records, we cannot seem to find them.

It is possible that, because they are unilingual, they did not understand the terms and conditions of the work they did. They maybe also did not understand what the Commissioner had promised. All we do know is what they thought they were told.

This story points out how confusing things can get for unilingual people. I hope we can have a happy ending. Later today, I will be asking the Premier whether this government will be able to live up to the commitment made by the Commissioner so many years ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Affirmative Action

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you are aware, we have discussed affirmative action many times during this session. I feel that this is an important issue that should stay in the forefront of this government. Mr. Speaker, this policy has been in effect since 1985 and we still have a long way to go to reach the government's goal of 50 percent native employment. It is important that this government realizes the need to have a competent, home-grown employee base. How else can this government expect to provide its

services without the understanding of the issues and the way of life our people share throughout this great land?

Mr. Speaker, what is needed to make this or any other employment policy work? I believe we must start by supporting and promoting education at all levels. We need to provide a broader education base so that all our residents can utilize the education services that are currently available. We must allow all residents access to education. As it stands presently, we do not allow any form of adult education in a number of communities. This must change.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues have mentioned previously, we need to teach our people the different skills required to take over the government positions. We need to provide the basic training in communities which will allow interested residents to strive for more. Mr. Speaker, I believe we can provide this which will then make this or any other employment policy redundant. It is important that we get our people educated to the level that they can take over the positions they wish, which will allow for fair and competent competition between all that apply. Until this happens, we must strive to increase the level of native employment and reach this government's goal of 50 percent or possibly change our policy to better reflect our needs of today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Employment Changes After Division

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in Cambridge Bay during the leadership meetings, there was, I think, some confusion over employees now employed and employees to be employed by the Nunavut government on April 1st, 1999. Mr. Speaker, the plan at the present time is to have the initial 150 positions to be hired and in place on April 1st, 1999. However, this government has reiterated time and time again, that employees working prior to April 1st, 1999 and living in Nunavut, would be still employed on April 1st, 1999. It is important to say this, Mr. Speaker, because since the Cambridge Bay meetings, I have had numerous calls, e-mails and faxes from long-term, dedicated staff who are wondering about their future.

Mr. Speaker, while no job or position can be guaranteed in these days of reductions and fiscal clawbacks, I think it is safe to say that there will not be a major layoff of current employees prior to 1999. Mr. Speaker, all employees should be aware that a new government or employer will be in place on April 1st, 1999 and that government may decide to change job descriptions or re-profile employees. There is no anticipation that will mean current employees will be laid off en masse. This government has made that clear and I believe that it will be confirmed over the next few weeks.

Mr. Speaker, employees raising young families, purchasing homes and acquiring mortgages have been quite stressed over the past few weeks. I hope that this clarification will help put those concerned at ease. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Kids Help Phone Bowlathon

Page 882

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am going to speak on behalf of my colleagues, the honourable Members, Charles Dent, Roy Erasmus and Seamus Henry, the MLAs for the city of Yellowknife. On Saturday night, we took part in the Kids Help Phone Bowlathon, an annual event organized by the NWT 5-Pin Bowling Association. The bowlathon raises money for a national toll-free telephone service which offers counselling information and referrals to children in need 24 hours a day.

I am pleased to report this year's bowlathon was a great success. It raised \$19,900. The Yellowknife MLAs raised \$4,500 altogether.

-- Applause

We collected \$3,000 in pledges. BHP matched our efforts at 50 cents on the dollar for a \$1,500 donation.

-- Applause

Our colleague, Mr. Erasmus, deserves special mention. He alone raised \$2,200 in pledges.

-- Applause

I would also like to mention Dustin Fisher, a student at Sir John Franklin High School. Dustin earned the highest score among the teams that bowled with us in the six o'clock time slot. And we were good! While we are singling out people, I would like to give a big vote of thanks to the 5-Pin Bowlers' Association, which helped raise more than \$100,000 for the Helpline. Special thanks also go to the Yellowknife Elks Club which donated \$25,000 to the cause. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Unofficial Affirmative Action Policy

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of affirmative action has been a topic of some discussion in the past few days. I would like to briefly discuss a highly successful affirmative action program, though completely unofficial, one that has been with us for decades in this government. It is very effective, Mr. Speaker, because it services about 10 percent or less of the population. It is worked to the exclusion of many other groups, groups like the aboriginal people, groups like grown-in-the-north northerners and women.

Mr. Speaker, this group of less than 10 percent of our population, through this unofficial affirmative action, has managed to maintain at least 70 percent of all senior management positions in this government. Mr. Speaker, I am speaking about that group of people known as middle-aged non-aboriginals or white guys. Mr. Speaker, this is a very, very influential fraternity and a very closed fraternity. When I say that, I would like to demonstrate an example. Of the 18 deputy minister level positions, 16 of them are in this category. There is one woman and one aboriginal person at the deputy minister level by my calculations.

Mr. Speaker, when you have this kind of affirmative action policy, though it is unofficial and you are in a position to help design the structures of government at the municipal level, at the territorial level, you are also in a position to write policies and regulations, job descriptions and influence hiring. We have to ask the

question as we look at our own affirmative action policy, where has it gone wrong and what can we learn from this unofficial affirmative action program?

Mr. Speaker, it is my contention that it is because of this kind of unofficial affirmative action policy that people of the north have grown very, very frustrated. I think it is one of the reasons that has driven people to embrace self-government so eagerly. It is one of the reasons that the people of Nunavut want to set up their own government that they would control. When we look at re-designing our affirmative action, northern job strategy, we have to take a page from this book. Our political direction is only as good as those who implement it, Mr. Speaker, and we have to have a senior management that is representative of the people it serves if we are going to have substantial change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Plan 2000

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation recently rose to announce Plan 2000. This is a plan to provide housing to 2,000 more families by the year 2000. On the surface, this seems like a laudable effort. I was intrigued by the announcement that went on to talk about the program details, in particular, on the enhanced down payment assistance program. What I saw did not make me happy. It also did not make me happy to hear the Minister say in a radio interview that households with incomes between \$50,000 and \$90,000 would be eligible for assistance.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about empowering people but we develop programs which encourage dependence on government. We are making people dumb. We are teaching them they cannot manage on their own. We have to help them. What kind of a message does this program send to the many middle income families who have bought their homes the old-fashioned way by earning the down payment themselves? As a government, we talk about developing a private sector economy, then we create a program which totally disrupts the natural development of the economy.

birth rate. This government knows the birth rate is out of control, yet it does not do anything about it other than build more housing.

Mr. Speaker, the funds proposed to be expended on this new program should be put into programs that will modify and teach responsible attitudes in the NWT and encourage parents to know that the government cannot continue to support the high birth rate until we have an effective wage economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Affirmative Action Policy

MR. BARNABAS:

Qujannamiik. I have heard many opinions in this House on the affirmative action policy. I believe we need the affirmative action policy. I agree that the current policy has maybe not had the results we would want. The levels of employment of aboriginal and Inuit people are still not representative of the general population. However, Mr. Speaker, without this policy, there would be even fewer Inuit people in the workforce in my area. The people in my region are very capable of doing the jobs that need to be done. It is true that many people do not have a lot of formal education. Inuit people recognize this and are trying to upgrade their education. Young people are staying in school and getting their grade 12. Adults are returning to college to improve their skills. Education is only a piece. A person's experience, approach to life and knowledge of local customs and values are very important for being successful as a GNWT employee.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit people without a lot of education may bring a wealth of practical experience to the job. In Nunavut, we hope to have Inuit people represented in the new government. The affirmative action policy is providing the starting point. We cannot abandon it now. We must find ways to improve it, to increase the willingness of employers to recognize the life experience of Inuit people in the hiring process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement On Support For Roberta Vaneltsi

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stood in the House several weeks ago, pledging support for my colleagues and the people of the north for an individual who is seeking custody of her children in the Czech Republic. Roberta Vaneltsi was born and raised in Fort McPherson. Roberta has not seen her children since July 1994, after they were abducted by their father and taken to the Czech Republic. Her story was told last week on CBC North. I am hoping that all of you loyal fans out there have caught the program. Roberta is presently seeking funds to go to the Czech Republic, as she has now received a court date of April 25th, 1997 for those proceedings in Brunn, a city of 500,000 people in the south of the Czech Republic. Roberta needs \$5,000 for travel, legal costs and also to help her case in court. She is presently booking her airfares and also has arranged for friends in Prague who will drive her, along with her lawyer, to Brunn for the trial and hearing.

I am asking my colleagues in this House and I am also asking Mr. Erasmus to be on my fund-raising team, since he has got it down pat, to make an attempt to contribute. The Gwich'in Tribal Council and the people in Mackenzie Delta are presently making pledges. So I call upon my colleagues and the people of the north to make pledges also. They can contact Robert Alexi (403) 979-4869, he will be able to give you Roberta's address and also her bank accounts so that you may make your contributions through that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly are based on a long parliamentary history. The rules and procedures associated with the Assembly are in place for many reasons: To ensure all Members can fairly represent their constituents, to support the expression of alternative views on issues, to foster respect

among the Members and to allow for a range of issues to be heard and discussed. One difficulty with any set of rules is that they often need to be clarified, as it this case with the Assembly and its rules. Mr. Speaker, over the last few months many Members have raised a flurry of points where the rules and procedures have needed to be more clearly defined. We have touched on many issues from the conflict of interest to inappropriate use of common slang phrases, from shirt collars and neckties to the conduct of business.

Mr. Speaker, I have appreciated your patience as you have provided many rulings clarifying the appropriate decorum, discussion and dress to maintain the dignity of this House. I hope we have addressed all the areas which need to be clarified. We should now be able to concentrate our attention on addressing the issues that are important to our constituents and the NWT as a whole. Mr. Speaker, it costs approximately \$16,000 a day to operate this legislative building. When you combine that with the critical issues that are facing us, such as division, the budget deficit and the need for job creation, Mr. Speaker, hopefully now we can direct the time that is needed to address these critical issues in a way that we are not interrupted, so that time is duly provided for these issues.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Need For All People To Work Together

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning on an area of concern. Over the last number of days, I have

Page 884

heard statements in the House that concern me very much, especially when we look at the way things have happened over the last few decades. Mr. Speaker, in 1967 the government moved north to be closer to the people. With this came an influx of many different people from different lands and different parts of this country we call Canada and with them many different ideals, different from the people who were born here and lived in the Northwest Territories for generations. Mr. Speaker, those ideals did not see eye-to-eye with many people that were here before.

My concern is that people in the territories, as different as we are all over Canada, need to work together. We have to find a way of cooperating that is going to lead to success, not find a way that is going to lead to destruction, to chaos and to people just not getting along. For years we have seen an influx of people into the Territories and have helped the people of the Territories and, in some cases, have hurt the people of the Territories. There is no magic in what we can do with affirmative action or any other policy this government puts forward. It is the people that count, not the words written on paper. As Members of this Assembly, we have to try and put forward the best part of all peoples in the Territories, not one over another and not one trying to assimilate another.

Mr. Speaker, I come from a mixed relationship. My father was a non-aboriginal and my mother was an aboriginal. I do not say one way should be over another. Instead, I see the way it needs to work together. From what I have been hearing from around this table, I see we have a long ways to go in this House and in this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Members' statements. Before we go on to the next item, I would like to remind the Members to slow down a bit when they make their statement. Some Members were going pretty fast and the translators cannot keep up and a lot of times, things that are interpreted in aboriginal languages take longer than maybe one word in the English language. I would request the indulgence of the Members to cooperate and give consideration to the translators. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Enuaraq.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to recognize two ladies from beautiful Pangnirtung, Geetee Maniapik and Salia Nakashuk from Tullivik Mental Health Committee. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time it gives me great pleasure to welcome the ladies from Pang and Lynn Johnson, who is a long-time family friend and the supervisor of my wife at the women's shelter in Iqaluit. Lynn is up in the back trying to hide as she always does. She likes to stay behind the scenes, but she is well known in Iqaluit as one of the most dedicated volunteers and workers for the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mary Storr from Aklavik Community Council Services. I would like to welcome her to the House. Welcome Mary.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to recognize a long-time resident of Inuvik and dedicated worker, Brenda Bernhardt-MacNabb from the Inuvik Transition House.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise and recognize Miss Stella Wasylyshyn, executive director for Sutherland House Family Violence Shelter in Fort Smith. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure today for me to recognize one of my constituents. Somebody who lives next door to me in my home, whose office is next door to mine at home and who I hardly ever see, Miss Georgina Rolt-Kaiser, the regional vice president of the Union of Northern Workers from Hay River. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to recognize Cindy Bentley, who works at the shelter in Cape Dorset in my constituency.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Margaret-Anne Tologanak and Patricia File of Saint Michael's Crisis Shelter in

Page 885

Cambridge Bay in Kitikmeot and Doris Ivarluk from Kugluktuk. It also gives me great pleasure to recognize Anaoyok Alookey, of the Inuit women's group from Taloyoak. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Miss Stella Cockney, representing the Tuk crisis centre.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Evelyn Thordarson, who is with the Kataujaq Society in Rankin Inlet. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to recognize a dedicated community worker and head of the Yellowknife Women's Centre, Arleen Hache. I would also like to recognize another Yellowknife resident, I believe she is here, Mary Beth Levan.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to recognize Edith Squirrel from Fort Providence, which is about an hour from here from by air or three hours by driving. I do not see enough people from Providence but I appreciate it. Welcome to the Assembly.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 390-13(4): Rent Scale For Social Housing

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. I would like to know if the Minister could confirm for me whether or not it is true that under the current policies of the local housing authorities, it is possible for a situation to occur such as the one I outlined in my Member's statement whereby an unusual, significant amount of money could arrive for a single parent intended to be spent on their children and could in fact be absorbed as rent because it would be worked into the calculation for one single month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 390-13(4): Rent Scale For Social Housing

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the rent scale for social housing is indeed geared towards income. We do have controls that ensure there is enough money left for the family to be able to pay for food and other expenses. There are adjustments made as there are changes in income. On whether the particular example used by the Member earlier today is possible or not, I could not say. I will ask the Housing Corporation to look at it and analyze it to see if in fact it is possible.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary to Question 390-13(4): Rent Scale for Social Housing

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this specific situation, I believe the amount of maintenance payment which arrived was approximately \$700. It was the only payment received in the entire year. It was received in at the end of the year. I believe about \$350 of it was required to be paid to the Housing Authority in rent. I understand the rents pay needs to reflect the person's income. Would it be possible for something such as maintenance support to be spread over a 12 month period, so as to not affect the rent payable on any one given month? Especially in December, when everyone knows that families need a little extra money.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 390-13(4): Rent Scale for Social Housing

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, rather than debating the individual cases, since I do not have the file in front of me, I will say Mr. Dent, the Minister for ECE, Mr. Ng, for Health and Social Services and I have been working over the last few weeks on trying to get better co-ordination for our subsidies for low income families which include the rent scales. We are working on improvements to the system we have. We have made a commitment to report back by July, I believe. I will ensure the suggestion made by the Member is considered.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Question 391-13(4): Funding For Outpost Camps

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. It is important to maintain our traditional culture and to encourage independence from relying on social programs. Some Inuit living in outpost camps do so and make their living traditionally. Earlier today, I received a letter from a member from my constituency who lives in an outpost camp. He informs me he heard on the radio funding for all outpost camps will be cut off in the new fiscal year. He is very

Page 886

concerned about this possibility. These funds are used for outpost camps to purchase oil and other necessary supplies. Could the Minister indicate whether or not this is in the plans for 1997/98, to cut off those funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 391-13(4): Funding For Outpost Camps

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of what the individual the Member referred to thought he heard on the radio broadcast. As far as I am aware, there is no change to the funding we provide specifically for outpost camps. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 392-13(4): Plan 2000

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Housing is one of the fundamental needs of our people. It distresses me greatly when I hear initiatives described that they will encourage them to have children indiscriminately. I was wondering, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister could clarify what I thought was a fairly proactive housing program and speak to these very damning indictments that were just made, considering the effort in the kind of resources we are trying to focus to meet considerable housing shortage somewhere in the neighbourhood of 3000 housing units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 392-13(4): Plan 2000

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I too was disturbed by the comments by one of the Members this morning. The only comments I would make is that it is the intention of the Housing Corporation, in a small way, to try to meet the severe housing shortage we have, the overcrowding, the lack of housing, and the poor conditions of the houses in our communities. If you travel to the smaller communities, especially in the remoter regions, what you will find is something totally different than what you see here in Yellowknife. I think the comments made this morning were uncalled for and not factual to what we are trying to do. The initiative we presented as a plan will in fact help 2000 lower to middle income families who can afford the cost of running a house and some mortgage payments, the ability to be more self-reliant, to own their own homes, to pay for their own bills, and thus freeing up the

social housing they are occupying now to be used by those in more severe need.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 392-13(4): Plan 2000

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate whether they have a clear idea of the number of public housing units that may be freed up? Is it one for one? Can the Minister indicate what the hope is? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 392-13(4): Plan 2000

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, we now have almost 6000 public housing units. I believe the number is around 5800. In the last few years, through the Housing Corporation programs, we built about 1,200 new houses, which have freed up probably half of that number. I would qualify that by saying that I would need to check those numbers. Of the additional 1400, 40 new houses we will build in the next three years, I would hope that would free up half of that number again to be used by those in more need.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 392-13(4): Plan 2000

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Speaker, could the Minister indicate whether they have any idea whether there is any kind of coalition between home ownership and indiscriminate production of children? Was that a concern of this department when they were coming up with this program, that in fact there would be a down side? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 392-13(4): Plan 2000

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, short answer for that is no. It was not part of our consideration.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 392-13(4): Plan 2000

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate the time lines for this program? I know there have been press releases and such. Could he indicate when he anticipates this program will start and people can start getting the benefit of possibly being home owners for the first time? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 392-13(4): Plan 2000

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, we are starting immediately. The application process has been going on for quite some time. We have a backlog of people who would like to own their own homes and who could use the assistance. All over the territories we have started the process and the actual shipping and building of houses will start in the next four to six months.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Page 887

Question 393-13(4): Government Privatization Policy

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. On Monday, February 4, according to the unedited Hansard, I asked the Minister in charge of privatization: "what policy or direction this government was following on privatization?" From the unedited Hansard, Mr. Kakfwi said "there is a Cabinet direction given on privatization." From the same Hansard after I had asked for a copy of this Cabinet direction, the Speaker said, "I would like to remind

Members regarding questions it says that a question must not seek information about matters which are secret, such as decisions or proceedings of Cabinet." Mr. Speaker, my question for the Premier is how does this house, the Ordinary Members, the general public, know if Cabinet direction is being followed if the direction or policy is not written down and made public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 393-13(4): Government Privatization Policy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Cabinet decision papers and decisions made in Cabinet are not for public consumption. They are not to be discussed in this House. They are confidential and that is how they are handled. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 393-13(4): Government Privatization Policy

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do know a little bit about the rules. I read the rule book as it were. I know the directions and discussions of the Cabinet are secret. My question is different. My question is if there is a policy on privatization and the only policy that is on our book that is public is from 1985, in various times over the past few weeks, myself, Mr. Ootes, and some other Members brought this up. We do not really know if we are following that policy because they say it is redundant and then they quote from it. I am asking how do I know what privatization scheme we are following, if we are following correctly, if I cannot see a policy or if I can see something written down? If it says for example, Mr. Speaker, we are selling off 15 glasses at \$2.00 a glass, then that becomes public knowledge and we can check if we are selling those glasses at \$2.00 a glass. My question is will the Premier be coming up with a policy within Cabinet, so privatization schemes with this government, which affects every resident of the Northwest Territories, is public so we can look at it and see if it is being followed?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 393-13(4): Government Privatization Policy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a policy on the books, I believe it is back in 1985. The policy in general is being followed and part of that policy says in Cabinet direction, the Cabinet can have direction and initiative, and that is what we have done. We made it very clear to the privatization initiative of our government what direction we have taken. It is my job as Premier to make sure the Ministers follow the direction. I am doing that. What else can I say to the Member? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 393-13(4): Government Privatization Policy

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get into a debate. It would be very difficult for me to know if the direction is being followed if I do not know what the direction is and I cannot see it. I referred back to the 1985 policy. I tabled it in the House so we could discuss that policy. The policy does not outline in broad strokes what you would do for privatization. Will the Minister tell us what is up for grabs for privatization? What different areas, other than the two that we are aware of at the present time, POL and property management, are under the privatization, so we can see where this idea is coming from?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 393-13(4): Government Privatization Policy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would hope the Member would not be thinking this House or the Members of this Legislative Assembly are scheming. We have government initiatives and government direction. It has been through this House and it has had the

support of the Members of this Legislative Assembly and the privatization initiatives of this government. Any Cabinet decision that is made is transformed into policies and the policies themselves are for the public. With that, Mr. Speaker, I hope it answers the Member's question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 393-13(4): Government Privatization Policy

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not seeing boogey-men, I am not trying to create a crisis. I do not see conspiracies. All I am asking for is to see the policy. The Premier just told me they follow the policy and when the policies of this government are being followed, they are made public. When is he going to show me this privatization policy for 1997, not the one from 1985 that they were not talking about until I tabled it in the House, and then he said we are looking at it but they really are not because it is a new direction. We still do not know. When is he going to table this new policy and bring that forward for the people of the Northwest Territories to see? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 393-13(4): Government Privatization Policy

Page 888

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member himself has tabled the policy on privatization that is on the books of this government right now. He has seen it. We have made a commitment to this Legislative Assembly that we will be looking at revising existing policies that are on the books as well as rights. We will be doing that. As soon as we finish that work, I am sure the Member will look forward to seeing it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 394-13(4): Plan 2000

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Housing in regards to the Housing 2000 program. I would like to ask the Minister, in regards to the distribution of these units, is there some sort of formula that has been worked out in regards to distributing these houses in communities in need or is it going to be a regional distribution, east/west distribution or where there is a real estate market, where there might not be need for that many houses because of the influx on that real estate market? Have you looked at these aspects of the distribution of those units? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 394-13(4): Plan 2000

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, there is a combination of two ways that we will be distributing these houses. One, the primary one, and as always, is the need of each individual community, the number of applicants and those that are eligible. That number will be combined with the relative need of that community. That is to say a small community which has an urgent need for a small number of houses will be treated as fairly as a larger community with a need for a bigger number of houses. We will ensure that each community gets its fair share.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 394-13(4): Plan 2000

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the distribution, I would like to ask the Minister, do they have numbers in relation to how this distribution is going to work, especially in relation to the smaller communities versus the larger centres? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 394-13(4): Plan 2000

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, what I can provide the Member is a distribution list of houses that we were planning to build for this year using the existing programs. That will give you an indication of what the distribution will be like. Although the difference would be with this new program, there will be more houses built. I will ensure that the Member gets that listing. The final list will depend on the number of eligible applicants from each community, but I would think because we will have more applicants than the packages that we can offer, we will end up ensuring each community is given its fair share based on its relative need.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 394-13(4): Plan 2000

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The whole question of need, will the Minister also consider looking at the number of individuals who have been on waiting lists for a number of years with their applications, to access these units in which, in some cases as in my riding I believe, in the last couple of years we have been getting one, two houses allocated. Yet you have 20 to 30 people on these waiting lists to have their names put forth year after year after year. Because of limited houses being distributed, we were not able to get their names. Will you consider looking at the previous lists of applicants versus applicants for today?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 394-13(4): Plan 2000

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, certainly the waiting list will be part of the consideration but even with this initiative which increases the number of houses, we will not meet the demand. If his community has traditionally been getting three to four houses each in the last few years, I would imagine that the next couple of years you would get six to eight new houses each year for the next three years.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 394-13(4): Plan 2000

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the Mackenzie Delta region, we feel we have been not getting our fair share in regards to the houses. Yet the demand is high. Could the Minister give me the information on exactly how many units we are looking at for that region? If you are saying it is going to be six or eight, ten will do. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 394-13(4): Plan 2000

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, in the last few days I have been getting similar requests from just about all the other MLAs. What I will say again, the distribution will be based on need, on the number of eligible applicants. We will be as fair as possible. We know where the need is. We will fairly distribute what little we have.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 395-13(4): Unpaid Work From Fox 2 Program

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement, I talked about two people from Broughton Island who have never been paid for the work they did in Fox 2 in

Page 889

1969. There was a commitment made by the Commissioner at the time to resolve this issue. Will the Premier agree to try to find a way to live up to the commitment made years ago on behalf of this government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Premier.

Return To Question 395-13(4): Unpaid Work From Fox 2 Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That commitment made by the former Stu Hodgson, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, was some time ago. It would take some research to look into that issue. I would be pleased to work with the Member to look into the issue and see if there is anything we can do to relieve that problem. I could not commit today to him. I will talk to the Member for Yellowknife Centre as well. He may remember something about that. He was working with Mr. Hodgson then. We can check back in the files and see if there is anyway we can solve this issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 396-13(4): Affirmative Action

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My comments and questions are for the Premier and they are on affirmative action. We had several Members speak on this subject this morning. One reference was to the fact that we have middle and senior management that are non-aboriginal and of the deputy ministers there is a large percentage who are non-aboriginal. I would just like to make reference, Mr. Speaker, to the fact that this House is composed of six non-aboriginal Members and the remaining are aboriginal. Cabinet is composed of a majority of aboriginal Members. I think there is a reason why there are not many aboriginal deputy ministers. I agree that it needs to be addressed. However, I think to single out these people and imply they should not be there, perhaps, we should have already filled those positions with aboriginal people is subject to question, Mr. Speaker. I made reference the other day to some comments and statistics. What I would like to know, if the Premier could tell me and I am interested, as I am sure as other Members are, in more statistical information in this whole area, has the government done any analysis of the government itself as to where we have percentages of aboriginal employees and affirmative action employees? Are those statistics available to us?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 396-13(4): Affirmative Action

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the government has done that work and those statistics if you do not have them already, we will make them available to you. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 396-13(4): Affirmative Action

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would appreciate it if the Premier could pass on those statistics to me. My concern is that those statistics identify very specifically an analysis of each department and what type of employees are employed there and the positions and what has been filled. I wonder if the Premier could tell me if it has been done to that extent.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 396-13(4): Affirmative Action

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the work has been done to that extent because we need these numbers and statistics when we also review deputy's performance. I do that every year. I have already written to the deputies to make them aware that this is a very major issue to our government about aboriginal and long-term northerners, those that fall in affirmative action, that I will be specifically reviewing those issues with them when I review their performance. I needed those statistics as well from previous years, so we can see how they are being advanced. As well, we will be talking to the deputies very shortly and I will be doing it in writing as well, how we can develop a plan of employment and training to increase those statistics. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 396-13(4): Affirmative Action

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering if the analysis also includes an analysis of why it has succeeded. I will state very clearly that I think there have been many areas of success with this government employing aboriginal people. Yes, there is a need for other areas to be bolstered and improved. I do not think that anyone is ever going to question that, certainly not me. I am wondering if an analysis has been done as to why it has succeeded in certain areas and not in other areas.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 396-13(4): Affirmative Action

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will get the statistics and the numbers for the Members. As far as why it is such a success or why it is such a failure, that would be to each individual Member's opinion as well as individual deputies. As a government, we will come up with a position on that as well. We have committed to the Members of the Legislative Assembly to work with them on the Affirmative Action Policy review. The majority of the work, compiling the information to present to the proper committee, is already done. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 396-13(4): Affirmative Action

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my final question refers to the fact we have a high percentage of non-aboriginals as deputy ministers. Could the Premier tell me if he feels that is wrong? Thank you.

Page 890

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier. Mr. Morin, do you wish to give your opinion?

Further Return To Question 396-13(4): Affirmative Action

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, I do not normally stand up to give my opinion. What I will say is we do have 12 deputy ministers in the government right now. Some of those deputy ministers are aboriginals, some of them are long-term northerners. They all do an excellent job. It is made very clear to the deputy ministers we are looking at ways to increase the number of affirmative action in all areas of government. I want to see plans on how we can do that. Whether it is right or wrong, I will not comment on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Mr. Speaker, could I put my question off for a moment? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Question 397-13(4): Funding For Winter Festivities

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister responsible for recreation and recreational facilities. This question was asked by Hall Beach residents in regards to dog team races. They would like some information on funding available for winter festivities for dog team races. How do they receive the funding to pay the winners? Do they apply to the Minister of recreation? Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Thompson.

Return To Question 397-13(4): Funding For Winter Festivities

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the recreational program, of which I am responsible for under MACA, I believe you are referring to the dog team race from Arviat to Rankin Inlet. The Dog Musers' Association organized it under the chairmanship of Harry Towntongie. They also have their own membership from Keewatin communities who received the funding themselves. It was not organized by this department, it was organized by the dog mushers themselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Supplementary To Question 397-13(4): Funding For Winter Festivities

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps they have their own rules that they follow. The representative from Igloodik said they had rest stops everywhere along the route even before the dogs were tired. Perhaps the dog team guidelines were set up by the government or someone else. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 397-13(4): Funding For Winter Festivities

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. MACA was not involved in this race. It happened before my term as a Minister. I remember listening to people from the Rankin Inlet hamlet council meeting where they organized the way the race was going to be set up throughout the Keewatin. There is a group called Dog Musers' Association. They set up the arrangements and guidelines for that race. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 398-13(4): Plan 2000

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be to Mr. Arlooktoo regarding Plan 2000. I just happened to look in a book and I found a comment that is sort of appropriate and it says "do not be afraid of opposition. Remember a kite rises against, not with the wind." Mr. Speaker, I have obtained the Plan 2000 and we are not hitting the target with it. Let us establish a few basic facts. The housing crisis or shortage exists in level two-three communities. They have the highest unemployment, the least developed economies and private sector markets. They are, Mr. Speaker, the poorest communities, least likely to have many income earners between \$50 thousand and \$90 thousand per year.

You can walk into a chartered bank and secure a residential mortgage, even with a Down Payment Assistance Program. My question to the Minister is, with a birth rate that is presently three and a half times the national average, will the government, after its three year program, be able to continue to build these number of units in economies that are not yet established? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 398-13(4): Plan 2000

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I would have to admit I do not know what will happen in three years time. What we are doing is trying to deal with a crisis situation where we have hundreds of families who are underhoused or living in homes with other families. We are trying to ensure new homes are built for those that can afford to pay their own bills, freeing up the social housing units that are severely needed. Whether or not we will be able to afford to build new houses down the road will depend on whether or not the federal government will be funding us for those. They have made it really clear they are getting out of the social housing business.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 398-13(4): Plan 2000

Page 891

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would respect the Minister's comments that he does not know what is going to happen in three years time. I would suggest his department should have some type of planning in place for five years. I think the people of the Northwest Territories demand their government have something in place for a five year plan. I will direct that question to the Minister. What plans do they have for longer than three years if these housing units are short up to 6000, if the birthrate does continue and the government still tries to provide housing? What plans does the department have for a five year period? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 398-13(4): Plan 2000

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker. I would first say these are two different issues. One is an overall and longer term problem we need to deal with and that is our runaway birth rate and the social problems and conditions that come with that. It is something the social envelope ministries are working on and something the Members have spoken on. We do need to deal with that. While we are dealing with the longer term problem, we have an immediate and urgent crisis we need to deal with, the need for more housing. All Members who have ideas on how we should deal with it should be bringing those forward.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 399-13(4): Critical Housing Shortage

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This set of questions is also for the Minister of Housing. In response to Mr. Henry's statement, the Minister indicated Mr. Henry may not be aware of the critical housing shortage in the smaller and remoter communities. Those were his exact words. In the response just now he used the words crisis situation. I would just like to ask the Minister where he thinks these circumstances exist in the Northwest Territories at this time?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 399-13(4): Critical Housing Shortage

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, this situation is in most of the communities in the NWT. We do have exact numbers but I do not have them available with me. Those numbers will be confirmed again, probably increased when we release the new survey that has been ongoing for the last little while. There are a few pockets of exception. Parts of Yellowknife and Hay River and some of Fort Smith do have some surplus houses in certain areas of the market. There is a severe shortage for housing for people with very low incomes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 399-13(4): Critical Housing Shortage

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response, Minister Arlooktoo. I am curious about your needs survey. We keep hearing this referred to that it is going to be released shortly. We are going to see what the needs are. I am just wondering what is the process whereby you determine those needs. When you go into a community, how do you calculate what the need is in that community? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 399-13(4): Critical Housing Shortage

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the Housing Corporation through workers, contractors, or through the local housing organizations, go door to door and actually interview tenants to see what their need is. We also go through the existing waiting list that we have and the condition ratings that we also have in our inventory.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 399-13(4): Critical Housing Shortage

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is exactly how I thought the needs survey was conducted. In going door to door with staff and people from the Housing Corporation or somebody contracted with this need survey, how many homes do you think you would come up to that would say no, I do not want more houses, I do not need a better home, in the smaller communities? How many people are going to say no I do not. It just seems like an unusual way of determining the real need. I think, given the opportunity, most people would say yes. Which brings me to my next point and that is when we talk about the income thresholds for this Plan 2000, we talk about a range of \$50 thousand to \$90 thousand annual income. Given the diversity of the communities in the Northwest Territories, it is a very relative indicator. I guess my point is and the question I would like to ask the Minister is, if we had to postpone implementation of phase three of the rent scale because those middle income earners could not afford to pay rent to housing, how are those same people going to go to the bank and get a mortgage and take on all the operating costs of managing a home, not to mention the mortgage payment? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 399-13(4): Critical Housing Shortage

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I think there were two questions there. First on the needs survey. During the earlier needs survey in 1991, there was criticism the Housing Corporation had based its survey on an ideal home environment. One room for every child, a proper living room, etc. We were very careful this time to make sure we dealt only with the urgent housing need when we did the survey, the real need for houses in the communities. That is different from trying to tabulate what you would need in an ideal situation.

Page 892

This is about urgent real needs. On the other question about the \$50 thousand to \$90 thousand income threshold, I would point out that number is an estimate. It is different from community to community depending on the cost index for things like fuel, power, food and it is adjusted accordingly. There is no intent or plan to delay or defer this initiative so I will not add anything else to that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. We will break until 1:30 p.m..

-- Break

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to call the House back to order. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 399-13(4): Critical Housing Shortage

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary to the Minister of Housing revolves around this idea in theory that is put forward in Plan 2000, that people living in public housing units are middle income earners, are going to move out thus vacating public housing units which we assume lower income families are going to move into and take up that vacancy. So my question is, are the people who qualify under the down payment assistance program, is it part of the criteria or a mandatory requirement that they are presently living in public housing units? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 399-13(4): Critical Housing Shortage

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, no, it is not a requirement, although we know the individuals residing in our public housing units who have an income level where they can afford their own homes are the individuals we will be targeting to some degree, but we have also opened this up to individuals who are in other rental units.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 400-13(4): Communications Strategy

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. My question is in regards to the long-awaited communications strategy or plan he indicated was being worked on back on February 3. I was wondering if the Premier could update me and this House as to when that will be brought forward. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 400-13(4): Communications Strategy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have taken the opportunity to send that to the committee and the Members of that committee to review it. We are waiting to hear back from the committee. We expect to meet with them one day next week to get their input. Then it will go back to Cabinet for final drafting. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 400-13(4): Communications Strategy

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister clarify when he says "members of the committee". Is that one of the standing committees you have sent it to?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 400-13(4): Communications Strategy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is correct. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 400-13(4): Communications Strategy

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I am clear, this has been referred to committee, then it will go back to Cabinet with the plan, then it would come for general consumption before this House breaks at the end of the first week in March?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 400-13(4): Communications Strategy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said, I have forwarded it to the Infrastructure Committee and from there we hope to meet with them to get their comments during the early part of next week. We are waiting for them to get back to us on the exact date. Then I will go to Caucus with it, then back to Cabinet, then this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 401-13(4): Plan 2000

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of the Housing Corporation in reference to Plan 2000. Can the Minister tell me approximately how many retrofits we can expect out of Plan 2000? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 401-13(4): Plan 2000

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, in terms of fixing up the older units, the ones we call the NTRs, we plan to fix up a little over 200 of them. There is an unknown number of other public housing units which we would add on rooms or do improvements to the water/sewer systems. I guess

the simple answer would be a little over 200 of the older units and some more.

Page 893

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 401-13(4): Plan 2000

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise the House as to whether the Weber units will be included in these retrofits? The use of the term "retrofit", is that to mean a total retrofit or, for example, if a new furnace were to be installed, would that be considered a retrofit and be considered accommodating one additional family or an improvement to one additional unit? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo. Two questions.

Further Return To Question 401-13(4): Plan 2000

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, in the briefing next week which we have offered to all Members, I hope to be able to answer the first question about whether or not this includes the Weber units. The retrofits, as they were done previously, were very expensive and we had spent close to the cost of a new house on fixing up a 20 year old house. The days of when we did that have passed. What we want to do is to ensure the units are liveable, they are up to code and health and safety standards and they are adequate for the family living in them.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 401-13(4): Plan 2000

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is understood that most of the need for improved housing and additional housing is in the level 2 and 3 communities. With that in mind, can the Minister advise the House as to whether it would be fair to say

the majority of the funding and the allocations will be spent in the level 2 and 3 communities?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 401-13(4): Plan 2000

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, it will be difficult to answer that question until we have most of the applications in and until we see the new needs survey. You could make a general statement that in the smaller and more remote communities, the need is indeed greater. But there are also families in the larger communities who need this program.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 402-13(4): Public Sources For Infrastructure Funding

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Mr. Dent. It is in regards to the questions raised in the House last week to Mr. Ng, about the possibility of finding public sources for funding for building infrastructure such as hospitals. Is your department also looking at that general area?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 402-13(4): Public Sources For Infrastructure Funding

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Member is referring to innovative approaches to the construction of community learning centres and schools, the answer is yes, we are always looking at new approaches. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 402-13(4): Public Sources For Infrastructure Funding

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the Chief Julius School in Fort McPherson, where there have been funds put into a public facility, would he also consider allowing that same avenue to be taken?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 402-13(4): Public Sources For Infrastructure Funding

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure how to respond to that question. That facility is almost complete. It has been paid for by this government, so I am not sure it would be of any benefit to examine another approach. It is, you might say, a done deal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 402-13(4): Public Sources For Infrastructure Funding

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to it being a done deal, there is an outstanding question of about \$500,000, which has been spent in the cost of that facility, which is a public facility, yet private funds were used to complete that facility. Would the Minister consider that as a public contribution to a public facility?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 402-13(4): Public Sources For Infrastructure Funding

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Chief Julius School project was an example of community empowerment. We used the block funding approach to deliver the funds to the divisional education council and they were completely responsible for the construction of the facility. The scope of that project was set out previously and agreed to with a signed agreement between this government and the

divisional education council. I understand the complete scope of the project was also signed off in the construction contract. It would not be appropriate to re-examine that right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Page 894

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 402-13(4): Public Sources For Infrastructure Funding

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister what time would be appropriate to look at this property? It is coming pretty close to turning the key in the door and opening the facility for public use, yet this question is still outstanding. Can you tell me the exact time you will be able to look at this particular problem?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 402-13(4): Public Sources For Infrastructure Funding

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in this instance we have made a contractual agreement for the facility. Therefore, I am not of the opinion there is anything left to look at. The scope of the project was agreed to by all of the parties in advance, the contracts were signed and we expect the facility will be completed according to those contracts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 403-13(4): Assets Available For Sale

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Financial Management Board and concerns the assets that are available for sale at the present time within this government. What assets are available other than the houses?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 403-13(4): Assets Available For Sale

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My honourable colleague, Mr. Arlooktoo, has been assigned the task of assessing what assets may be available for public sale. We are optimistic we will be able to conclude that within the next two to three weeks. We then made a commitment to Mr. Ootes that we would let them know the kinds of assets we think are available, but are no longer required by this government. Hopefully, we can get out there and market and sell these as we have done with the staff housing, so we can find some temporary relief to our budgetary constraints we are all operating under. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Could we go back to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, the Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 5. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. KRUTKO:

I would like to recognize William George Firth. He is a Gwich'in translator at CBC in Inuvik. He is hiding somewhere up in the back.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Dorothy Arey, Margaret Gordon and Candice Holstrum from CBC in Inuvik.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Peter Hope, CBC Dene language. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I will recognize Lisa Cashone, Emily Jones and Rae Radium, Edmonton CBC and Annie Pendenoff, Vancouver, BC.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. We have a lot of reporters today. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Written Question 12-13(4): Ministerial Authorities

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, Return to Written Question 12-13(4) asked by Mr. Picco to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment concerning ministerial authorities under Education Act, 1996.

On February 5, 1997, the Member for Iqaluit asked a number of questions concerning the term of employment of principals.

1. Why has the Minister chosen to impose the length of the term of the (principals') contracts on the District Education Authorities, instead of allowing individual authorities to exercise the responsibility clearly given to them under the Act?

Prior to the Education Act coming into force on July 1, 1996, principals were hired on an indeterminate basis. Section 63 of the Act now imposes a significant change to a principal's term of employment, that change being an imposition of a term of up to five years in length. The department sought labour

relations advice and was advised such a change to a principal's term of employment required a fair and proper period of notice. Providing notice in January, 1997 of the beginning of a five year term running from July 1, 1997 to June 30, 2002 was considered to meet this notice requirement.

District Education Authorities still have the opportunity to use section 63(6) if they wish to terminate a principal's term prior to the expiration of five years. This section states that a superintendent may terminate a principal's term by giving written notice to the principal 60 days prior to the closing day of the school in which the principal is employed. This provision must be read together with the Collective Agreement Between the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association and the chairman of the Financial Management Board for the Government of the Northwest Territories. It states the employer may terminate the contract of employment of teachers/principals where they obtain the mutual consent of both parties, or where there is just cause or incompetence.

2. Why did the Minister choose a five-year term instead of a three-year, or two-year term?

The changes to the indeterminate status of a principal's term required a significant period of notice to be provided to principals. The department was advised that the five-year term met that notice requirement.

3. What provisions are in the new Act to allow the Local Education Authorities to dismiss a principal considering these new hiring practices?

Dismissal of a principal is not covered specifically in the Act. Generally a dismissal would be governed by the facts of the situation, adherence to appropriate policy and terms of the Collective Agreement and an observance of the principles of administrative fairness.

If a superintendent wished to terminate a principal's contract then section 63(6) directs the principal must receive written notice 60 days prior to the closing day of the school in which the principal is employed. The termination would have to be carried out with mutual consent or would have to be justified by just cause or incompetence.

Section 63(7) of the Act states the termination of a principal's contract would not terminate the individual's contract as a teacher, if the principal was in a teaching position prior to being hired as a principal.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a petition, Petition No. 16-13(4), from Sanikiluaq regarding the proposed reduction to the Nunavut Library Services with four signatures.

MR. SPEAKER:

Petitions. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition, Petition No. 17-13(4), dealing with the matter of the proposed reductions to Nunavut Library Services. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 42 signatures from residents of Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request all Members should work to preserve the public library services which exist and to cancel the layoff notices which I tried to do yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Petitions. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition, Petition No. 18-13(4), dealing with the matter of the proposed reduction to Nunavut Library Services. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains seven signatures from the residents of my constituency. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request all Members work together to preserve public library services which exist and to cancel the layoff notices which have been issued. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Petitions. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition, Petition No. 19-13(4), for the Minister of RWED regarding the traditional knowledge policy. We, the undersigned, are aware of the controversy surrounding the promotion of traditional knowledge by the Government of the Northwest Territories and request the government clarify the following aspects of its traditional knowledge policy: 1) what knowledge has been acquired from spiritual teachings; and 2) when is it appropriate to incorporate spiritualism into government documentation and actions? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Krutko. Could you also include in your petition the number of signatures?

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are 37 names on the petition. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 13: TABELLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, Tabled Document No. 58-13(4), a letter from the Koomiut Co-op in Pelly Bay written to me, regarding annual sealift freight charges in Pelly Bay. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document, Tabled Document No. 59-13(4), a report on February 24, 1997 in the Edmonton Journal. It talks about the film regarding Inuit. I am glad this was reported as they will know about our culture. Thank you. (Translation ends.)

Page 896

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document, Tabled Document No. 60-13(4), from the Northwest Territories Library Association concerning the public library review. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. 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 readings of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bills Nos. 2, 8, 9 and 10; Committee Report 2-13(4), Committee Report 3-13(4), Committee Report 4-13(4) and Committee Report 6-13(4) with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

I will call committee of the whole to order this afternoon. The Speaker has outlined a number of items on our agenda. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Madam Chair. To proceed with Bill 8, Committee Report 2-13(4), Committee Report 3-13(4), Committee Report 4-13(4) and Committee Report 06-13(4) concurrently and to continue with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. The committee is agreed. Would the Minister like to bring in witnesses? I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to invite the witnesses to come in. Does the committee agree to the Minister bringing in witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Minister Kakfwi, could I ask you to introduce your witnesses once again for the record. Thank you.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I have on my left the deputy minister for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Andrew Gamble; on my right the executive director for Resources and Economic Development, Mr. Doug Doan.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. When we left off with Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development on February 24th, there was a motion passed to defer further consideration of this department's budget and we were on corporate management activity, page 11-10. If I could refer the Members' attention to page 11-10. we will continue then with corporate management, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$9,305,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I have some questions for the Minister. Does the Minister have a traditional knowledge policy in his department?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Could the Minister indicate to this committee how much it is costing this government to enforce or follow the traditional knowledge policy in his department?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Chair. The department had at least two positions designated for the purpose of dealing with traditional knowledge in the old Department of Renewable Resources. In the course of amalgamation, what we have done at this time is indicated that traditional knowledge would be a responsibility, a partial responsibility of at least two different staff people within the department. In December, I asked the department to contract a consultant to advise myself, as a Minister, on how the amalgamation could be used to enhance this government's view of traditional knowledge and better reflect the policy we have in place. In respect to the Member, in many cases we think the use of traditional knowledge on a purely scientific basis, perhaps in the way we conduct business, the way we conduct ourselves and the way we make decisions could very well lead to situations where we would be saving money and not, as he inferred, wasting money. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, does the Minister have a definition of traditional knowledge?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Chair. The government has a policy regarding traditional knowledge and the government does have a definition of what they think they believe is defined as traditional knowledge. I do not think it is really that definitive. It is an evolving type of concept that is controversial. Some people, having never been blessed with seeing the merits of traditional knowledge at work, are the doubting Thomases of the scientific community today. They are loath to suggest there is any merit to it unless they can actually put their hand on the substance of it as you would read in the Bible. Others are taking a more positive view that aboriginal people, First Nations, have lived and survived for thousands of years. There are certain knowledge, practices

and beliefs that have evolved because of the relationship with the land and the wildlife in their environment. Whether it is based on measurable scientific basis or not, one must believe it has some basis. That is the general view that we take. Specifically, I do not think it is relevant whether I, as a Minister, have a definition for traditional knowledge. The fact is this government has a position on it. It supports and advocates the use and the recognition of traditional knowledge and we have a policy on it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I support traditional knowledge in the regions of wildlife management. I believe it has been a proven fact that there is some scientific support for that type of traditional knowledge. I know in some communities in my region we have had to wait for the scientific community to catch up to the traditional knowledge in relation to wildlife, but eventually both groups worked out an agreement whereby one would benefit the other. My question to the Minister though is: I would like to know how much it is costing this government to document this traditional knowledge. I understand the Minister identified two PYs under his department, but I also understand this policy is government-wide. I am trying to find out just exactly how much it is costing this government to document traditional knowledge. How much are we paying consultants? That is the type of information I am after, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. I do not know if the Minister would be able to identify how much it would cost government-wide, since he is only representing his department, but with respect to Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Chair. We have a responsibility to co-ordinate and encourage departments all across this government to recognize traditional knowledge and to find ways to make use of it and to have it reflected in the way they conduct themselves and the way they do business. We have just started some discussion about how that could be done. I think it is a

legitimate inquiry to say how much does this government spend in all the different departments in dealing with traditional knowledge. Does the Department of Education, Culture and Employment spend money dealing with traditional knowledge? Do our wildlife people have research activities that deal with that? What about transportation? The fact is we do not know, at least I do not know. But I think if we have a policy and we want that policy reflected in all departments, then we need to develop some basis on which to advance it and to deal with senior managers on how we think they should try to relate to it in a way that could be measured. Does that mean we might be able to develop a mechanism that can count the number of dollars that we expend on a yearly basis department by department? I would not be able to answer that question. As I say, I think there needs to be some effort made to see if it could be done, since we should be able to answer Mr. Steen's question. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. A final supplementary in this set, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Somehow or other I get the impression I found another one of those policies that the government does not know how much it costs to operate. I would like to ask the Minister more directly, does he have any consultants working for his department and how much do those consultants get paid a year? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, Mr. Steen implies, perhaps in a benign way but still it needs to be addressed, that every time we have a policy it automatically means it costs the government more money. I do not think that should go unchallenged. I think it should be said some things are just as necessary to do as your daily bodily functions. You cannot go without them. In our case, we are a government that presides over a range of aboriginal people who have been here for thousands of years and who have a huge body of knowledge that most of us have absolutely no idea about. To start suggesting at the onset that it is automatically costing us more

money and not see it as an investment, I think can be seen as derogative. The fact is for anybody to suggest that although people have been living here for thousands of years, different people adapt, the Inuvialuit, the Dene and the different nations of the Dene including the Metis, that for all the thousands of years we have existed and the tremendous amount of use and knowledge we have acquired living on this land and making use of resources that we have absolutely nothing to contribute to the scientific community. We have absolutely no knowledge that is worth looking at is astounding. That is being suggested in some quarters. I am not saying that Mr. Steen is saying that, but because it does start to wander in that area, I think we need to address it up front. I wanted to make the point that it is, in my view, an investment.

We are not fully aware of the full potential and use of traditional knowledge. Mr. Steen points a more measurable one which is the profound knowledge that aboriginal people have on different species of wildlife and their habitat. The scientific community has taken to that very easily. There are other areas that are not as well known or recognized and perhaps more controversial. We should view it in the same way, that it is worth looking at and should be treated with respect even if we cannot measure it with our conventional scientific instruments. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

I did not answer the last part of the question of the honourable Member for Nunakput. He asked about the consultants. I did ask the department to contract a consultant in December, to look for someone that would have some credibility to advise myself and the department on how we should deal with the issue of traditional knowledge, to see how this department in the reorganizing that we are doing, should reflect through the allocation of resources the position of the importance that we place on traditional knowledge. We have contracted a person to work with us for six months. Out of respect for the consultant I

Page 898

prefer not to talk about the value of the contract. That is the dollar amount of the scientific contract. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I have some questions on a different aspect under corporate management. Could the Minister indicate whether all the affected employees, specifically at the senior management level, their situations have all been resolved and dealt with and that staffing transition has been taken care of?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Chair. There are still some staff positions, including senior management, that are not yet resolved. Either the staff people themselves have not decided exactly what it is they want to do or, as a government, we have not decided exactly how to proceed. There are some that require resolution, some decisions to be made in the next month or so. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Could the Minister indicate the number of unresolved issues relating to the amalgamation and resolving individual effected positions? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

There are a total of 17 positions that have yet to be resolved. Of those, two have possible legal action pending. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. On the issue of signing authorities, have the signing authorities, especially on the economic development side that were previously in place, have those been maintained after transition, like superintendents are allowed \$250,000 signing authority on loans and such?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Chair. As I understand it, the total amount allowed for lending authority at the regional level stays the same. However, based on the confidence of the department at the headquarters level with confidence of the regional people, that amount varies according to the experience and the confidence level of the regional people. Nothing is changed except the amount of the lending authority varies from region to region. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Fourth question, Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Could the Minister clarify that particular situation? He has indicated nothing has changed but if the incumbent at the superintendent level do not have the full confidence or they may have some concerns about capability, then they may not have the full signing authority. Could the Minister indicate, out of the six regions we do have, where there is full signing authority?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Gamble.

MR. GAMBLE:

Thank you. All eight superintendents have the full spending authority delegated to them, \$250,000. In exercising loan authority for the Business Credit Corporation, authority is delegated by the chairman of the BCC and the Minister. In some regions the superintendents and staff do not feel they have the experience. In those cases, spending authority is limited with respect to BCC loans only. In terms of all other department programs, they all have the full authority. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Gamble. Final question, Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Could the Minister indicate under the BCC side which regions feel they are not quite ready to handle that authority and would prefer it be maintained in Yellowknife?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. One moment please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Whose turn is it? Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. The only region that falls under the description the Member outlined is the humble region called the Sahtu. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We have Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to follow up with some questions on the item on traditional knowledge. The Minister stated there are two individuals in the department working on this. He made reference that he has a consultant. I wonder if the Minister could tell me if it is one person as a consultant and if this is the total program within the department and the total number of people working on it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. There were two positions of which traditional knowledge is supposed to be one of the responsibilities of each of those positions. There is only one person in the department working on traditional knowledge. The other position is vacant. The intent is to look at the policy of traditional knowledge and see how we, as a department, can integrate traditional knowledge into the day-to-day business operations and the decision making, the

mode of operation we have as a department. We also want to get

Page 899

into advising other departments on how they can start to implement and enhance the government's policy on traditional knowledge. We are looking at ways in which we might be able to assist implementation of the recognition and use of traditional knowledge on a government-wide basis. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I wonder if the Minister could tell us who has done the evaluation and scrutinized the work being done to-date on traditional knowledge?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Could you repeat the last portion of your question, Mr. Ootes? Or else the record will be interrupted. Thank you.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, my question is: if we have one individual working on traditional knowledge and a consultant, if this government is going to develop a policy to institute government-wide which effects the scientific community and many individuals positively in many cases, but it is perhaps questionable in other areas, I am wondering if the Minister could tell me who, outside of this hired and paid consultant and this employee of the government, is doing an independent evaluation and scrutinizing the whole development of what is traditional knowledge and how it should be applied?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Here is one other example of why this whole co-operative partnership type of approach we have adapted in the amalgamation is critical. First of all, traditional knowledge is not really ours, as a government, to scrape it together and put it on the weigh-scale and figure out how much it weighs

and whether it is important or it can be discarded. It is not really ours to do that with. As a government, we have come into this country and we have done a lot of things that have absolutely no regard for the people that were here in the first place. There have been many times when people have suggested our policies in the whole range of different areas, not only the scientific, have been a joke and have no basis in reality. Because we have never been here, we have never really dealt with the realities of here, we were in no position to make judgement until it became self-evident, to do the contrary is not right. The Member is pointing at that. Traditional knowledge, what is there we know and we have to go on the basis that as a government, as a scientific people born elsewhere from a different culture and a different value system, we have to accept First Nations have a body of knowledge going across all sectors of existing knowledge. Some of it is measurable, some of it is not so measurable. Some are, while they are not measurable, self-evident and can be accepted for what it is. What we have been encouraging is asking people not to spend so much time on discarding the whole thing or on discarding the immediate things they think are sceptical, but to try to help us embrace the concept and to find some ways of preparing ourselves so we use it as we know it and to welcome the traditional knowledge holders to work in partnership with us, so we will decide together what is useful, what is relevant, and how it should be used. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes. I think the Minister has a good understanding of what traditional knowledge is. I appreciate what he is saying with his comments. There is a great body of knowledge amongst the aboriginal community, as he said, some is measurable, some is not measurable. From all of that, I kind of gather it is not all together yet. This is an evolving project. Traditional knowledge cannot be completely defined. Obviously there is no one scrutinizing or evaluating this outside of the two individuals. I am wondering who will be looking at this in the future? Who is going to make the decisions of how to apply this within government? Who will make the decisions of extending traditional knowledge throughout government?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Chair. The policy is there. It is my job to advise the government on how we can implement and co-ordinate traditional knowledge across the governments. Within the government itself, there is a committee on traditional knowledge where each department has a co-ordinator assigned for traditional knowledge to this committee. Cabinet will be the ultimate accountable body for making decisions in regard to this policy.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

The Minister certainly has a very good grasp of what traditional knowledge is and likely tremendous amount of experience. Could the Minister tell me if traditional concepts are based on spiritual assumptions?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Chair, perhaps an example would be useful. We had a TV ad where an elder said forest fires are natural because that is the way the creator made it. Some doubting Thomas phoned in and said, "it is absolutely unacceptable because the Dene are preaching religious beliefs. Therefore, you should not be propagating it in your TV commercials." I said, "I do not know, what I hear may be different from what you heard. I heard a Dene elder say the creator makes creation in a way forest fires are a natural occurrence." What does that have to do with religious or spiritual beliefs? The fact is it is a natural occurrence, that is the point. Once the point was made, there was a conversion of the doubting Thomas. I do not know if I could do it for every specific case. There was an example of what was seen to be.

I think sometimes we get into these debates and we get mixed up about spiritual versus religious. We get into debates about interpretation. I think the debates are welcomed. It leads to a challenge to develop and refine our definitions and our policies. There are some derogatory elements to some

Page 900

people's thinking I categorically reject. If somebody is suggesting I have nothing to say, I have nothing to offer, my thousands of years of existence on this land are worth absolutely nothing, I reject that. I do not think it is particularly conducive to working in partnership with everyone else to resolve the many issues that faces. I wanted to make the point, debate is healthy. We need to continue to work to try to clarify ways with dealing. In my view, religion has nothing to do with it. Once we start defining spiritual beliefs, in some cases it has everything to do with it and in some cases it does not. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Moving on down our list, I have Mr. Henry, Mr. Miltenberger and Mr. Roland. I will go to Mr. Miltenberger next. Just before I do, I want to mention I previously left the chair because I was planning to declare conflict on any items related to the Business Credit Corporation. I was not expecting it might be spread through a number of activities. I will ask the Members consideration if the Business Credit Corporation comes up other than under pages 11-14 and 11-23, I would just like you to give me the opportunity to absence myself from the chair before it comes up. Give me a little warning. Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to briefly go back to the issue of the staffing and affected employees. The Minister indicated there are a number of outstanding situations to resolve. My concern is: I know in the South Slave there are some people, especially at the senior level, who have been sitting there at full salary since last August. I wonder if the Minister could be more definitive in his time frame that these matters will be put to rest within a month or two months. In my opinion there is a significant cost, not only dollar cost, but there is frustration cost, an effect on the organization and such.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe we could have the morale result before the end of March. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Once again I can only speak for the South Slave Region. There is at least one staff that has a long, honourable job career with the former Department of Renewable Resources. I am hoping he will be treated honourably and all employees will be treated honourably, especially the ones who have served many years. I hope they will be given the chance to do what ever happens with dignity and understanding and compassion.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Chair. The expectation from myself as the Minister responsible, from the Premier, and Minister responsible for Personnel, the effective staff we have will be treated with all the respect that should be accorded to them. Every opportunity to keep them on, to give them the first opportunities for new positions created will be advanced. From the beginning, I have expressed full confidence in my senior management to carry it out. I have made it my position that I am not involved on these staffing issues. It is a senior management function to take care of the staff and I leave it under the hands of the deputy minister. I think the evidence is there to show we have gone to extraordinary lengths to do everything possible to take care of our staff in every way possible. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to switch to a different area under corporate management. I was wondering if the Minister could elaborate on information systems that provide access to remote sensing and geographic information systems. If he could elaborate on what kind of systems those are and the type of databases and who in the public and specifically in the private sector would be interested in the information?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. The section of our department that deals with remote sensing provides a service to different sectors. For instance, on wildlife habitat we do remote sensing to look at vegetation. For fire fighting, we do maps using remote sensing to deal with looking at the accumulated impact of previous fire seasons. We look at bison management, habitat, populations, different types of research. We look at vegetation, land use planning. There are a number of areas that require the use of the scientific maps and illustrations we produce. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Fourth question, Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Given the vast distances and remoteness of the areas we are talking about, I think this is a very important area. I was wondering if the Minister could clarify for me, as a lay person, when we are talking about remote sensory, are we talking about aerial photography, use of satellite information, when you talk about doing all these things with habitat and looking at forests and bison?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Chair. When we talk about remote sensing, it is mostly sensors from airborne craft so you could have satellites, helicopters, different types of craft carrying these sensors. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Miltenberger, final question.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Under this item of information systems and having these databases, does

Page 901

that also include timber inventories or is that a separate area as an information-based database?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I am not certain how exact the information would be. I think the remote sensing maps would show you where the timbered areas are. It may show variations, for instance, where it might be straight birch or poplar trees as opposed to spruce or pine, where there are largely dead trees, burnt areas, and disease. I think in regard to potential timber volumes, you would still have to do some on the ground estimations to do a proper job. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. I have Mr. Roland and Mr. Steen. We are on page 11-10, total operations and maintenance, \$9,305,000. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Madam Chair. My question to the Minister of Human Resources, with the amalgamation, there has been a lot of affected employees that have been left hanging for a while. I heard Mr. Miltenberger comment on it and raise a couple of questions. I have raised this concern before with the department and understand the Minister earlier answered one of Mr. Miltenberger's questions, that he leaves the hiring of staff to his senior officials. My concern is an area when you have long-time employees in the community that become affected by it, is it a policy of this government to go beyond the community, if those people are still in the community to fill the position? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, if we feel the newly-created positions in the department cannot be filled or taken on by the current staff within the community, we will look to bring, in the first instance, affected employees from other regions who we feel can do it. That has been our approach in this case. I think it drives the very critical point as well that we think people have to be prepared to move where the jobs are. We cannot always bring the jobs to the people. We cannot organize a department around where people would prefer to live. There are careers in the

government and it very often means having to enjoy a certain amount of mobility in the course of your career. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Madam Chair. If you feel you cannot fill it from within the community initially and then go beyond into the rest of the affected employees and you still do not receive satisfactory applications, what is the next process?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

First of all, we would try to fill it from within the community and the region. Then we would give the first opportunity after that to affected, suitable employees within the department. If that does not provide a suitable, acceptable candidate, then we offer it to affected employees within the government of the Northwest Territories from other departments. If we meet with no success there, we make it a public, open competition.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Madam Chair. My concern comes from the way we have had some of these employees in positions for many years doing very similar jobs, where they are in acting positions or so on, we find them at this time, for whatever position is available, not acceptable. I am wondering who is making those decisions as to who is acceptable? Is there a committee of senior managers or is it your final decision? Who are the ones who are looking at these? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Chair. In just about all cases where we are interviewing to fill a certain position,

there are local people that assist in the hiring, the screening and the interview process. There are local people involved in the hiring committee, so it is not just the department. From our side, usually we have, depending on the level of position being filled or being interviewed for, perhaps right up to the deputy minister involved in the process. I should point out again, it is true that there are some people who have done jobs in Economic, Development and Tourism in the past, or who have done a great job in Renewable Resources, all of a sudden now have to function with both responsibilities that were solely confined to Renewable Resources previously, now have to deal with Economic Development and Tourism responsibilities as well. In some cases, they have admitted they do not feel they are able to cope or deal with it. In some cases, it has not been a difficulty. In some cases, it has been seen by the hiring committees to be a major difficulty. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Is this number five for you, Mr. Roland? I think so. Thank you. Go ahead.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I will take your count as the correct one. I am not one to challenge authority. My final question in this area will be, in my region of Inuvik, who would be on that committee if there were local people? Now, I am not looking for actual names, but who would be involved in that process? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Chair. In the case of a senior regional position, for instance at a superintendent level, it would involve either Mr. Gamble, Mr. Doan or Mr. McLeod. It would involve someone from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Gwich'in. I believe the town of Inuvik was invited as well. Of course, we have human resource officers involved in the process to make sure that it is

Page 902

consistent and fair in the way the interviews and the applicants are dealt with. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. We are going to allow Mr. Steen to ask questions, then I am going to call a break. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to ask the Minister some more questions on traditional knowledge. Madam Chair, I do not disagree with the Minister, traditional knowledge might be a good thing, it might have scientific value, it might even have medical value, maybe even spiritual value. I am not arguing that. All I was asking the Minister was what expenditures his department had to obtain this traditional knowledge? I have been given vague answers. First there were two PYs, then it turned out one was vacant. Along with that was a consultant. Maybe the Minister does not want to tell me how much the consultant is getting paid. That is fine. Could he combine those total costs to give me and this committee an idea how much his department is spending on obtaining and documenting traditional knowledge? The other point I would like to make, Madam Chair, is the Minister says it is not a cost, it is a saving but he cannot identify it. We can identify a cost. Maybe we cannot identify the saving. Maybe it is there. I am not arguing that. The point is, I want to know what that cost is. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Chair. If the Member is satisfied with a round figure, I would suggest to him it would be about less than \$150,000 a year we have allocated specifically for traditional knowledge within the department including the O and M, the PY assigned and the consultant. Again, the work the consultant is doing will tell us some things, one being whether or not the way we are allocating resources within the department and the way we are trying to deal with the value of traditional knowledge is done in a way reflecting the respect and the attention traditional knowledge should receive from this government. If we are not organized in a way reflecting the significance and the importance we say we attach to traditional knowledge, then I want to know. If there are ways we can enhance our operation as a department, if there are some ways I, as a Minister and future Ministers, can enhance our performance and our responsibilities through the recognition and the way we relate to

traditional knowledge, then I want to receive that advice.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Could the Minister indicate how this consultant is gathering his information. Where is he gathering it from? What region, the Beaufort region, Nunavut region, or Sahtu region? Where is this consultant gathering this information from, what group of people?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Chair, the consultant has been engaged in this area for some years already. He has regular contact with all the different parties actively engaged in the whole issue of traditional knowledge. For instance, there was some contact meeting with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation in early January. There was some exchange of information at that level. There has been frequent information sharing exchanges with the Dene Cultural Institute, with the University of Alaska, with the University of Manitoba and other academics across this country who are debating and working to define the way in which the academic community should view and relate to traditional knowledge. There are different activities going on. For instance, there was an elders' workshop in Rae Edzo over the weekend. The consultant was involved with that exercise. I have invited the consultant to attend the Protected Areas Strategy Conference in Inuvik next week to offer some insight into how that whole exercise could be seen if the elders of the Inuvialuit, the Inuit, the Dene and Metis had undertaken such a project themselves. We are looking to receive some advice from the consultant on whether or not the way we are organized is conducive to better use and recognition of traditional knowledge as a government. Whether or not the way we make decisions could be enhanced through recognition of traditional knowledge. Eventually, we hope there is some advice given on how we can enhance operations of government in all sectors. One place could be here in this very House and the way we relate to one another. The rules we operate under are totally void of any recognition of traditional knowledge,

the habits, the values, and the traditions of the first peoples of this country. Do we want to have it reflected in here? At some time or other someone can make some suggestions about how it could be done if that political decision is made. Until then, we will continue to operate under the good rules of Robert. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Madam Chair, is the department hoping to end up with a document which would be called traditional knowledge that the public would have access to?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Chair, I am not certain if publishing something would make people feel more like they have to engage users and holders of traditional knowledge. If a publication would help do that, I would be very happy to publish something, but if all it is going to do is have the skeptics jump on this publication and chew it up without engaging in a discussion with the aboriginal peoples, then it is not really productive. The intent is to try to find some way to see how we can better respect the traditional knowledge, how we can help it find more acceptance and understanding amongst the public, including ourselves and our staff, how to set up a system providing for the future. If there are some specific suggestions, then I would not discard the idea of a publication, but it would have to be in that context. It would have to be conducive to a positive development of people's attitudes and understanding. If it is, then I would be quite prepared to look at a publication.

Page 903

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. That concludes Mr. Steen's questions and I would like to take a 15 minute break.

-- Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to call the committee back to order. We are reviewing the 1997/98 main estimates of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. We are on page 11-10, corporate management, operation and maintenance. Total operation and maintenance is \$9,305,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister has indicated if it would help people be more supportive of traditional knowledge as a policy or commodity, he would be happy to document this. I believe this is what is needed. I would like to ask the Minister if there is some possible way, after all the consulting work is done, there would be a document identifying each aboriginal group's traditional knowledge, for instance, the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in, the Dene in general and the Inuit. If there was some way of documenting this traditional knowledge so it would be accessible to the government departments in general. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think if some of the aboriginal organizations, for instance the Inuvialuit, are prepared to document and publish an article or a piece of literature that speaks the tradition of the Inuvialuit or any other First Nation, if the aboriginal people themselves say yes they are prepared to do it and they want our support to help them do it, we would be prepared to do it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Corporate management, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

My last question, Mr. Chairman, if this knowledge was documented in that fashion, would it then take the strain off of this government as to having to fund the

research for this type of traditional knowledge information?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is my view if the aboriginal people want to print or provide for public information purposes or education, a publication on the traditional knowledge within themselves or to give some illustrations what traditional knowledge means, if they require funding for it, we would be prepared to look at supporting such projects. I do not know if it will then diminish any sense of responsibility we have for any future funding that may be required in the area of traditional knowledge. I do know there have been a number of research activities that have taken place over the years in a number of sectors that have not involved local or aboriginal people which, in spite of hefty amounts of money being expended with very credible scientific people being authors of them, have long since been shelved without any benefit being derived from them, namely because the connection had been made with the aboriginal people or the local communities on which the research was being based in part. Again, I go back to the point I made about an hour or so ago. I think it is a necessary way of doing business. If there is nothing of particular relevance that needs to be engaged in their traditional knowledge on a particular project, that is fine. That is for us to determine. We have to accept it as part of business. If we move into somebody else's house, then it is necessary and protocol that we should ask that person who was there before us about their knowledge and their awareness of the house before we do anything. It is more economical. That is efficiency. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Under the particular activity corporate management, we have Mr. Miltenberger and Mr. Henry. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the area of corporate management, could the Minister indicate or expand on the role of strategic planning? It seems to have an economic function. I was wondering where the other mandate of the department, in terms of resources and wildlife environmental issues, would

come in the area of strategic planning for the department?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman. Mr. Gamble, the deputy minister, will take that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gamble.

MR. GAMBLE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In creating the department, we separated the strategic planning unit from the policy and legislation unit. There is a small group of people involved in the strategic planning. It is largely focused on research in the area of economic trends, economic statistics and economic development potentials. It is this group that is leading the development of the economic framework. We felt the strategic planning needed some long term view and planning and had to be separated from the day-to-day operations. We did segregate that unit and the staff from the rest of the department.

They are largely focused on economic and employment issues. They do relate to resource management and development. I think part of the question was where do we look after planning in the renewable areas and the resource management. It is handled within the line divisions in terms of developing policies and programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am assuming the development of policies and programs will be based on an overall strategic plan for the department that is consistent with the mandate. I do not see, from what you have told me and what I see in this corporate management summary, how it is integrated. This is a department not of just

economic development, but of resources and wildlife. Where in this particular structure is the planning process pulled together, so you have a comprehensive strategic plan for the department that reflects all aspects of the mandate?

Environmental and wildlife issues cannot just be the subject of policies and programs handled by the line staff. There are some very fundamental issues we have talked about in this House relating to water use, overall planning for resource development and timber management. The whole issue of wildlife habitat and trapping, could you indicate to me how it is tied together, since it is not clear to me?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Gamble will respond to that question as well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gamble.

MR. GAMBLE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The overall strategic planning for the department is really a function of the whole senior management team. In other words, directors of all of the line divisions and the superintendents who deliver the program, would all be involved in developing and integrating strategic planning for the wide range of areas the department covers, the business planning process and ongoing planning we do as a department. Distinct from that, we have in the corporate services the policy and legislation group who takes the lead in separating policy and legislative proposals through, but they come from line divisions, from superintendents, etc. I think the same thing applies to the strategic planning unit. It was set up to focus the attention of a small group on long term economic planning. It includes resource use and small business developments. The integration is there in terms of program delivery. It is happening within the resource management economical development activity. It is happening at a regional level. But we did feel we needed a unit to bring the thinking of the various mine divisions in the various regions to focus into the development of the economic framework. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then I would suggest that fourth paragraph, where you talk of strategic planning, is incomplete. This is a new department with a very important mandate that is supposed to balance the economy with the environment resource use, wildlife issues, things that are the heart and soul of this territory. There is not one mention of anything but an economic framework. I know that we need a strong economy without a doubt, but this department is supposed to be, as far as I can understand, promoting a balance. I have concerns. I have seen letters from Ecology North, for instance, where there are very strong concerns about the environment and resource issues are going to be sacrificed on the altar of economic expediency. I know that is not the intent. I know that is not the intent of this Assembly. My question is to the Minister or to Mr. Gamble. The strategic planning should be critical for the whole department, so why would you want an economic focus? There has to be some reference to the other two-thirds of your mandate if it is going to be accurate and if it is going to provide comfort to those who are very concerned about what may happen in the new department, where there is a mix between the economy and the environment. Will there be a winner and will there be a loser as opposed to a fine balance? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member has raised a good point and we can do some rewriting to reflect the point that is raised. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Corporate management. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister's commitment on this issue. I wonder if the Minister could elaborate a bit on that particular commitment? Having this rewritten is a very important first step. The question is of the mind set of the department. I know the Minister himself has stated his strong concern for the environment and related issues many times. Will

this be more than just rewriting this particular piece of paper? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, it is true we have an overall mandate vision statement, goals and objections that affect exactly what the Member is raising. I do not think it is a major rewrite. What I hear him suggesting is that we are speaking of strategic planning for the purposes of economic development initiatives too much and not enough mention, as there is no mention in that particular paragraph, regarding our commitment and dedication to maintaining the environmental standards and commitment to wildlife research that we have in the past. That is what I understand I am making a commitment to do. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I have Mr. Henry. Corporate management.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been much discussion on traditional knowledge and the Minister talked earlier about making publications available on traditional knowledge. The Minister talked about if it was just going to be used for skeptics to jump on it that there would not be much need for it. I would suggest there is a thirst for that knowledge. I think it is fair to say that most times traditional knowledge is referred to, or at least when I hear it referred to, it is always in the context of a question. Well, what is it? Mr. Chairman, I believe the first inhabitants of this land would definitely have some knowledge worth sharing and if not among the newcomers, certainly with their own people. I believe there is a large amount of knowledge that is being lost on a regular basis. If the people of the north have been able to survive in an environment such as we have, I believe there is some extremely good knowledge that is worth sharing. I think that it would probably stand the test of the skeptics. I would certainly encourage the Minister to produce some publications, tell the general public what traditional knowledge is. Yes, there will be people jumping on it, but if it is strong it will stand up. That is the only comment I have on that.

I have a question regarding the layoffs. My question to the Minister is: how many employees have received layoff packages from the reworked department, from the three old departments and if he has a figure on how much the amalgamation of the three departments have cost on layoff packages? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fifty-two layoffs to date, estimated \$2 million cost. In regard to traditional knowledge, I think we can talk to some aboriginal groups about allowing for publication some aspects of traditional knowledge that could be used to give some definition in the minds of people who are unable to grasp what it is we are talking about. I would think it would be useful. You know the knowledge of people came to the fore, right from the very first time Europeans set foot on this continent. A lot of the information has since become irrelevant. Certainly in the history books, there is almost a total denial of any contribution of knowledge from aboriginal people to European society. In 1997, we are still trying to make some corrections to people's perspectives and attitudes. I am not certain we will ever be in a position to publish large volumes of this traditional knowledge, but we can look at helping people conceptualize what we are talking about when we are talking about traditional knowledge. I agree with the Member that there would be a very useful purpose to do something that would help in that area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, of the people who received layoff packages, and the Minister tells me that cost the department \$2 million, how many people that have received packages have been rehired by his department or the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, our department has not rehired anyone who has chosen to leave us. If other departments have since hired these people, then I am not aware of them. The question should go to the Minister of Finance. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Corporate management. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question is of a general nature. There were certain assumptions made and acted upon when the three departments were proposed for amalgamation. If the Minister could give us a little overview on the assumptions that were proven right and some of the assumptions that were made that may not have worked out the way it had been projected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, one of the assumptions was we could do the same job just as effectively with less senior management. We could do the same job at less cost. We could reduce the cost of the three departments by amalgamating them into one department and do it in a way that it would minimize the impact at the community and regional levels. We went on that assumption. Those assumptions, I think, prove themselves to be valued assumptions. I have no reason to believe we are less effective or less diligent in carrying out our work now than we were six months ago. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Corporate management. I have Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if the Minister could indicate how many affirmative action status personnel he has in the headquarters here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Gamble will respond to that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gamble.

MR. GAMBLE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In headquarters, which does not include the Yellowknife regional office, we have 26 priority one, 10 priority two, affirmative action employees for a total of 36, out of total active employees of 95 in headquarters.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we get an indication of how many of those affirmative action status people are in management and how many are P1s?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gamble.

MR. GAMBLE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are 26 P1s in the headquarters and I believe one is senior manager.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Corporate management. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we get an indication if there were any people that were hired from the Personnel Secretariat once it was decided the Personnel Secretariat would be downsized?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gamble.

MR. GAMBLE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there were. At the very early stages of the amalgamation, we recruited one personnel officer from the former Department of Personnel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Can we get an indication of why it was necessary to recruit this person?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I will recognize Mr. Minister.

Page 906

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the staff person was available. We felt it was a person that had the capability of providing us with the service we required in setting up this new department. The person was an effective employee and we felt we had to look at what was available to make a decision on what we required in order to proceed with the amalgamation at the pace and the manner in which we chose. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we get an indication if this would mean there was another person working in the human resources area, in addition to the ones that were already there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the amalgamation, we created a new department. The new department required a position to be filled and that is what we did. The previous three departments did not have anyone dedicated to that particular function. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Corporate management, operations and maintenance, total operations is \$9,305,000. Do we agree? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see that the department also does in-service training programs. The training

the staff received, what people actually took training? How many programs are taken by affirmative action status personnel and how many were taken by non-affirmative action personnel?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of that information. I will try to find a way to acquire that information for the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Corporate management. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could not make out the numbers the Minister had indicated.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I did not give any numbers. I said I was not aware of that information. If there was some way to get a hold of that information, I will provide it to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Corporate management. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

I would appreciate getting that information. I will send him a note later to verify what it is I would like. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. That is noted. Total operations and maintenance, \$9,305,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 11-11, detail of capital, corporate management, acquisition of equipment, headquarters, total region, \$15,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total acquisition of equipment, \$15,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total activity, \$15,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 11-12, environmental protection services, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance is \$1,781,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see this area includes air quality. Would this include regulating the air quality around Yellowknife?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At what stage are the discussions with Giant Mine at concerning improving their emissions of sulphur and whatever else they are spewing into the air?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have had meetings and some exchange of correspondence with Royal Oak. We have discussed the proposed goals toward emissions regulations with them. The discussions have gone fairly well. I am quite pleased with the discussion we have had to-date. There is an intent to try to come to some satisfactory arrangement in regard to the concerns raised about the emissions. In short, we are working on it together. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the department have any concerns regarding the emissions coming from Giant Mine?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Page 907

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, there has been concern from the city and private citizens for a number of years. As a government, we have been aware that the federal government and ourselves have no legislation or regulations in place to address that. That is the reason we have drafted the goal roster discharge control regulations. We have recently looked at arsenic emissions, which is a toxic substance under the jurisdiction of the federal government. We are looking at ways in which we could address that. We have been discussing these draft regulations with interested groups, including Royal Oak. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the department done any research into the public effects of persistent emissions over a long period of time? Giant Mine has been here quite a while. Has the department done any research to see what effects this accumulation of

emissions might be having on the people in this area?
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, there has been some work done on sulphur dioxide emissions. There has been some research done to establish what level those are, whether there is reason for concern and what measures might be taken to alleviate the concentration in the local area. Health Canada has looked at concerns regarding arsenic emissions. I am not certain if any particular research is available from the federal government on that particular substance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Environmental protection services. Final question, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There seems to be an unusually high amount of people who have been getting nagging coughs, chest infections, and the rest here in Yellowknife, from what a doctor has indicated. Would the department be willing to do some type of study to see if there is an unusually high number of people who are getting chest infections and persistent coughs? It seems even people who do not smoke are getting almost what has been called smokers cough and those types of things. Would the department be willing to look at something like this? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be prepared to see if the Department of Health or Health Canada would look at such a concern and act on it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Under the environmental protection services, I have Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Picco and Mr. Henry. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate how the money in this particular activity, environmental protection services, is broken down between environmental protection and energy management?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Gamble will answer the question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gamble.

MR. GAMBLE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget for that activity is broken down into three tasks. One is program management, which is for the total departments. Total budget is \$331,000. The environmental protection task is a total of \$456,000 in headquarters. These are headquarter's budgets. Energy conservation total for all regions is \$878,000. Just to go back, the program management including regions, the first number I gave, is \$447,000 total.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The area of energy management and the wise use of energy is an area where there is a significant potential for savings that does not require laying people off and cutbacks to free up money for other important programs. This is a very important area and the Minister has indicated in the House that he wants to put a priority on the development of an energy strategy. Could the Minister elaborate, as the amount of money that is currently there for energy management is quite small given the magnitude and the size of the territories and how much money we are spending on energy right now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Member is aware, we indicated we have an economic framework that we are developing, which is going to help us to rationalize in a more transparent way for the public and for Members of the Legislature, how we allocate our resources in support of the different parts of our economy. It will provide for that. In areas like this, it will show we are putting some attention on energy and energy conservation. This is one of a great many areas where we want to engage in some activity in the coming year. At this time, we are showing about \$450,000 for capital and \$878,000 in operations and maintenance. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize that the department and government have done and are doing some interesting initiatives at the community level like the heat reclamation at Fort McPherson and community energy planning in Fort Simpson. My concern is that while we are making some individual efforts in some areas, this is an area with huge potential, but seems fiscally undernourished and would benefit from, even if there is not a huge influx of new money, a broader plan that would explore some of the possibilities in terms of energy savings. As the price of oil rises and energy costs increase, it is going to be an area where there can be significant savings, as well as benefits to the environment and to communities in terms of freeing up dollars. The question would be to confirm the need for a broader energy strategy in addition to the very appropriate community

Page 908

initiatives, that is going to be tied together some way, so we can look at areas where we may need more capital up front to save money in the long run. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree that if we can rationalize it, more resources should be dedicated to this particular area. In the opening remarks I made, I mentioned that we are looking for partnerships. We

are going to work with other agencies, perhaps federal agencies, other departments, including municipalities to do what we can in this area. At this time, this is what we thought we could allocate. Hopefully by developing partnerships and joint action with other agencies, the total allocation will increase significantly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of initiatives, such as community energy planning, is that one of the responsibilities of your regional energy specialists? I am not sure what they are called. I would like an assurance that they are involved with that scope of issue, as opposed to just focusing on changing taps and light bulbs. There are broader issues as well in which there is a key role they can play. If he could clarify that for me?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the brevity of that response. Could the Minister indicate, if there is a process or a place where communities can go when they are interested in community energy planning? Is that sort of a discrete kind of program? With the people in Fort Simpson, for example, how was that developed and can other communities make use of that kind of initiative?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would say anyone within the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development should be able to assist people at the

community level who wish to get information or to access information or propose an initiative in this area. Perhaps starting at the regional superintendent level might be the fastest way of proceeding. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Environmental protection services. I have Mr. Picco and Mr. Henry. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, my question concerns environmental protection services and hazardous substances. Earlier this month, I asked the Minister regarding the Department of National Defence and their request to the Minister, I think it was DIAND, for an exemption so they could bury parts of the DEW Line sites. Now the DEW Line site structures are Armcos and the concern here was that the paint had extreme levels of PCBs. I am wondering if the Minister has any further update on what is happening in this area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is, as far as I know, no change. The Minister of Environment earlier this year pushed very strongly for a ban on putting substances with known PCB levels into landfill sites of a certain concentration. Now another federal department, the Department of National Defence, is writing to this same Minister, the Minister of Environment, asking for an exemption. As far as I know, there has been no response from the Minister of the Environment at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the Minister, Mr. Kakfwi, written to or been in contact with the Minister of the Environment, Mr. Sergio Marchi, to let him know of our concerns with this proposal by DIAND about the possible burial of the DEW Line site refuse? Has he been in contact with the federal people to let them know of our concern here? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, to be quite honest, I do not recall sending a letter to the Minister of the Environment on this issue. I think earlier, at some time I may have indicated I would be prepared to do that. The issue is also up in front of some of the aboriginal organizations because the Department of National Defence is asking these aboriginal organizations to provide support or to provide direction on where suitable landfill sites may be acquired for this purpose. I am not certain there has been any response at that level either. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a facility in Swan Hills, Alberta that actually burns or incinerates PCBs because it is very difficult for these to breakdown in the natural environment. I would strongly urge the Minister to write the federal Minister of the Environment to state our case. I do not see anyway that the GNWT should be allowing the burial of any type of PCB material, because we do not know what the long-term effects are. By lobbying some of the aboriginal organizations to find other alternate sites to bury them, I think is incomprehensible because of the seriousness of the situation. We really do not know what the long-term impacts of PCBs are.

I ask the Minister on behalf of our government, because I do know that the Minister is acutely aware of this situation and is interested in environmental protection, that he would write the federal Minister, Sergio Marchi, to let him know that the 11 sites they are talking about which are in the Northwest Territories that we as a government, the people, do not under any circumstances want this type of material if it turns out that the PCB levels are so high in the paint, as indicated in

Page 909

correspondence that I have received. Again, I will ask the Minister if he would commit at this time to write the federal Minister to again reiterate that we do not want these PCBs buried. I think again, by going to aboriginal groups and trying to get another place to

bury them for approval of same, is just a way of circumventing us. I think we should state our case and make it very clear that under no circumstances do we want any type of PCB material buried. I wonder what the response is from the Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

I would like to thank the Member for his advice. When the Minister of Environment advocated banning materials that contain PCBs at a level of 50 part per million into any landfill sites, we raised a concern that there is really no scientific evidence that supported this, since there is no scientific evidence that there is any leaking of PCBs into the environment when you put these equipment and buildings intact into a landfill site.

We could write a letter to the Minister of Environment reminding him, in some diplomatic way, that for political reasons or whatever reason that he had taken a very strong position banning such an option. We could do that, but we also need to be aware that we work in partnership with aboriginal organizations. I am not aware of the nature of the response they will give to the Department of Defence at this time because they may see it as a question. Do we want to leave the DEW Line sites intact the way they are or do we want to provide some viable option for the Department of National Defence to dispose of them in an environmentally safe manner? If we have not drafted a letter, it is because we have not really had time to focus on it to craft out an approach to this issue. Hopefully, we are thinking the Minister will make the right decision and that may resolve things in a monetary basis. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is kind of worrisome for me when I look at this issue, having lived adjacent to DEW Line. I am aware of what a DEW Line site looks like and, of course, this issue has come up because DIAND has been offering some of these DEW Line sites for sale and removal. If you remove those sites, if I go in and buy a DEW Line site which consists of ten armcos, which are residential

accommodations, in those cases people who buy it might not want it. That is why DIAND is asking for the ability to be able to bury some of this stuff on site, because they know whoever buys a DEW Line might not ship lock, stock and barrel south. Because when you buy a DEW Line site, you buy the copper wire instead, the pipes, the PCB on the wall, the paint.

I understand the Yukon Minister has now come out against it publicly about any type of these facilities being buried in that jurisdiction. My other concern here is if DIAND has gone to different aboriginal groups asking for permission for landfill sites, and I am not aware that they are, but if they are doing that, let us say one aboriginal group says yes, you can buy it but the other aboriginal group says no, then where does that leave the territorial government who has to look at the whole jurisdiction? What happens to the scientific evidence? As the Minister said, there is no scientific evidence saying that it may leak into the ground but there is also no scientific evidence saying that it does not. I think it is a concern and again I would ask the Minister to draft a letter asking maybe to clarify from both Ministers, from the federal Defence Minister and from the federal Environment Minister, exactly what is happening here. I think that at the end of the day, it may be too late when these buildings are sold and burial starts taking place and then ten years down the road we might be into some type of controversy.

Again, I would ask the Minister to draft a letter, to contact the federal Ministers and let them know the concerns. I do not think that I am isolated in my concern here, Mr. Chairman. I think there is widespread concern across the territories with PCBs. Again, science itself does not know the cause and effect of the leaking into the ground. But I can tell you that in this case, Mr. Chairman, I would be on the nimble side, not in my backyard. I would not want them burying it in my community. I would not like to see them buried in someone else's community because I do not know what the effect would be. Again, I would ask the Minister, will he take another look at it and write/communicate our concerns to the appropriate federal Ministers and then again update the House, because I do know the Minister is concerned with this issue. We are all trying to do what is right for the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will take some time over the next couple of weeks to meet with the staff to try to make some decisions about what to do in regard to this issue. We will make that commitment. We will give it the attention it requires and it deserves so that we can act in the appropriate way. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not trying to be confrontational or adversarial. I see this as a concern that is territorial-wide. I appreciate the Minister getting together with his staff. I raised it about two weeks ago in the House and another two weeks is a month. I do not know what the tender contracts are calling, if these buildings are for sale, if they are closing. I agree with the Minister that we should review it. Again, I would like to reiterate to the Minister that I would be interested in any follow-up letters that he sends to make them public, not just to me but to the House, to the people of the Northwest Territories, because the House will not be sitting in two weeks, the next sitting is May. Maybe then our Renewable Resource Department, under the environmental protection area, could put out some type of press release or inform the public between now and May so the people of the Northwest Territories know exactly what is happening on this issue. I have received several phone calls, letters and e-mails since this was in the media two weeks ago when I first brought the issue up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Page 910

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with you. We need to do some work. We shall try to keep the Member informed in Iqaluit including other Members of the Legislature and keep the public informed as well of any developments in regard to this issue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. I have environmental protection services, operations and maintenance. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of protection services, the document area, we have an area for community energy planning. Can the Minister inform me and this House on what is encompassed in this area of community energy planning? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I believe community energy planning is to help communities do a preliminary assessment of what their energy requirements are and how they have been utilizing the energy and researching the way in which they expend that energy. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am wondering if a community could use this to look at the existing systems they have in the area of updating and changing the way they supply heat, for example, and other services to the community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, we have worked with the Association of Municipalities to do two pilot projects, one is in Fort Simpson, I believe the other one is in Cape Dorset, to do basically a community energy audit that would do a study on the energy consumption of those communities and the manner in which the energy is expended, the cost and to look at ways of improving the cost to government, to the consumers. Those are the two that we are doing and we are doing those presently. If the Member has a specific suggestion about another area where that could be done, we would be prepared to look at it within the resources we have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Before I go to your next question, on behalf of Mr. Ootes, Member for Yellowknife Centre, I would like to introduce Lanny Cooke, executive director, YK Association for Community Living.

-- Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

And Marlene Grooms, family support worker with YK Association.

-- Applause

Mary-Ellen Johnston, FAS co-ordinator with YK Association.

-- Applause

Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Chairman, a point of privilege. That is on behalf of all Members of Yellowknife.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Ootes, you do not have a point of privilege.

-- Laughter

You are welcome. I am on environmental protection services, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$1,781,000. Agreed? Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Kitikmeot region is one region where the DEW Line site runs right through. In Pelly Bay, we have one DEW Line site which is abandoned about 16 miles east of Pelly Bay and we have another one 16 miles west of Pelly Bay. The community has very strong concerns about a number of things, one is the fact there are contaminant substances in one area. I was told by local hunters that the barrels at the DEW Line site east of Pelly Bay have all kinds of debris. We have 45 gallon drums. Some are getting rusty. Others are still intact all over that place. A number of people have spoken to me that we have spring run-off running right to the ocean and we have spring run-off into the lakes. My question to the Minister, will the Minister

communicate with the hamlet council of Pelly Bay to get the details and facts about the concern I just related to the Minister? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, we can do that. To inform Members, including Mr. Picco and Mr. Ningark, we scheduled a meeting for sometime tomorrow with the staff to deal with this issue. We have moved it up from two weeks from now to sometime tomorrow. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Total operations and maintenance, \$1,781,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 11-13, detail of capital, environmental protection services, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$450,000. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is this being used for? Thank you.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, this money is available to communities and groups that wish to make proposals. The proposals would be entertained where there would be some immediate return. For instance, if there are significant savings to be made by a capital investment, for instance, a water intake system is heated to the tune of a couple of hundred thousand dollars a year, if someone brought us a proposal for \$100,000 or even \$200,000, they could

Page 911

dramatically reduce that O and M cost on an annual basis. We would provide the capital money for something like that. Proposals that require capital money to be expended in order to reduce the ongoing O and M costs would be the type of proposals we

would entertain for this particular pot of money. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This funding is not allocated as yet, but it is available to communities once this is passed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, we see this capital money as initial seed money. Hopefully, other agencies will provide monies as well. Originally, this capital money came from Public Works. Public Works had it allocated to be accessed by territorial government departments. We have now moved it to have it provided and accessible by members of the public, including municipalities and other agencies. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. I have buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$450,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total buildings and works, \$450,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Acquisition of equipment, headquarters, total region, \$10,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total acquisition of equipment, \$10,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total activity, \$460,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 11-14, resource management and economic development. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of issues on this. First of all, in parks and tourism. I wonder if the Minister could update us on the privatization initiatives of this government, announced by Mr. Morin last year on the privatization of our parks system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, as the Members are aware, the federal government announced as a condition for the approval of the BHP project to proceed, they wanted a protected areas strategy developed within two years. The good Minister, Mr. Irwin, following that announcement, then asked myself, as the Minister, if I would take the lead in moving to develop this particular strategy. Following that announcement, we have put on hold this privatization initiative regarding parks. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, maybe I am a little confused. I do not see the linkage between the BHP project and the Protected Areas Strategy and the privatization initiative of this government. Let us say, for example, in the Northwest Territories, which covers one third of the area of Canada, it stretches from coast-to-coast-to-coast. We have parks that are located in Nunavut, Kitikmeot region and in the Inuvik

region which will not be effected by the BHP project and you would think the privatization initiatives would be going ahead. For example, here in Yellowknife, some of the parks like Hidden Lake park, Reid Lake park, Prosperous Lake park, I would assume would have been on the privatization initiative scheme. Could the Minister clarify exactly why it would be put on hold because of something the federal government wants to do with declaring protected areas?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. One of the intentions was to take territorial parks and move them more towards arms length and do them in partnership with other agencies. The actual administration contracting of services for parks is not really on hold, but the move to develop partnerships in the management of parks is the element that we have put on hold. We see it as all part of the overall work that needs to be done in developing a Protected Areas Strategy. The basic element we need to arrive at in a Protected Areas Strategy, Members are aware, is we have such a number of players that should be involved in a particular strategy that are not aware of their own roles that each other play. For instance, it is important for all the aboriginal organizations and land claim institutions to know how much land is staked by mining companies in the Northwest Territories and where, how much exploration money has been invested by these companies in the last 10 years. On the same token, all of us need to know what are the legislative powers, the rules and mandates in legislation of the Nunavut Wildlife Board and the other agencies coming up. It is with that we have said we wanted to put it on hold, pending if people are willing to be partners in developing a strategy. This conference is supposed to happen next week and it is my hope that after some initial kerfuffles, the oil companies, the mining industry and the aboriginal organizations will agree to work together, to get to know one another, to respect each others roles and agencies and from there decide together how we should put together a Protected Areas Strategy. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I find it very difficult to follow that reasoning on the privatization. I guess it goes back to the privatization directives of this government because I do not know what the policy is. I cannot

Page 912

see it, so I do not know how to question it. After saying that, I am not a fan of the privatization scheme of parks because in our area of the world, it would be very difficult to privatize parks when you do not have fences and charge admission and so and so forth, to make them into a viable, money operating source, so I am not in favour. In the Yellowknife area, I could see some of those parks on the Ingraham Trail privatized because it looks like they could have some economic revenue generating capabilities. Continuing on to parks and tourism, I would like to know why it seems, when I look at the capital for the different parks, about 80 percent of park money is being spent around the Yellowknife area and my park in my region has to have several major upgrades. It seems to me there is an uneven distribution of money for park development dedicated to capital. I wonder if that is the case. According to the numbers that is the case, but I wonder if that is a glitch in our system and it will be compensated for next year or is it because our parks have lower priority or something?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been a concentration of parks developed in the last few years, largely where there are highways built, that is along the Mackenzie Valley, the Mackenzie Highway system. Areas where there are parks but are considered remote, there is a move to minimize the kind of capital we want to spend. There are probably reasons for it. It is always unfortunate when we start to look at east/west because I do not ever remember a time when money was ever allocated on that basis. We have made commitments in recent years to develop certain parks up to a certain level. Some of this capital money that is allocated is just finishing off previous years' commitments. Others show a good concentration of the money is going into this particular area because of the high use by tourists and by people in this area. Whether that is defensible or not remains to be seen. If there is a specific concern, then be prepared to try to address it. In general terms, are

we doing this consciously on an east/west basis? Absolutely not. Should he feel like he is being short changed in the allocation of resources because he is in the east and some of us are in the west, I would say not, but I do not have much control over how the Member feels. Those are the only comments I can provide at this time. If there are specific areas or parks where there should be more capital allocated and he feels there has not been, then that wish should be made. We would be prepared to hear it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I feel very well, thank you. My point was in the east/west split, that was not what I was trying to point out. When I look at the money spent, I can only go by the figures, the actualities. When I look at, for example under building and works, Yellowknife, I see \$2.3 million for capital projections for their park.

When I look at my region of this world, I see \$50,000 for my community for one park. I wanted to point out I did go to the resource committee meeting. I did ask the Minister several months ago, when the budget was being prepared about the capital plan for the Sylvia Grinnell Park in Iqaluit, which is a park adjacent to our community which is heavily used, which I enjoy taking my family to. It has very few facilities there. Right now there is a shelter there that is 15 years old. It is suffering from vandalism. You cannot use it. It is supposed to be there for bad weather or refuge. It looks like it will be about \$100 thousand just to replace that. There are no toilets there. There are old and ancient privies. There is a concern they are a health hazard. That is why I am bringing this point up. I know the department has looked at the Sylvia Grinnell Park to try to upgrade it. I am not trying to say it is an east/west thing. All I am trying to say is in this case, because I did bring the substantiation forward in the Resource Committee, I did ask the Minister at the time and I see \$50,000 for that project, which is really heavily used, because one of the issues that the Minister brought up is the parks here are really heavily used, whether in my community Sylvia Grinnell Park is used by the majority of the population. Again, my question would be to the Minister, would he be reviewing the capital estimates in future years anticipated, because I could go through a litany of things in my community for that park. When I look at

Iqaluit, Sylvia Grinnell Park, there is nothing in the future years anticipated for that project. That was my point. I am not trying to be confrontational or adversarial. I am not trying to make accusations that money is going west and not going east. That is not what I said. I am just pointing out, in this particular incident, \$50,000 to upgrade my park when there is no other money available for our community, to me is not acceptable. I did make the representations to the Minister, so I am only asking, could he review the capital projections for that park again to see if we could make some monies available? I refer to resource management and economic development on page 11-14, which is parks, which plans for the capital, that is why I am asking on this page.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister do you have a response?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are aware there is not a great deal of capital money being allocated for this particular park this year. Over the next four to five years, there is a total allocation of over \$1 million, we are projecting and anticipating, at least on an annual basis, in excess of \$200,000 for that particular park. If goodwill prevails and economic conditions continue, the financial outlook remains optimistic, we will spend the money. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Picco, before you go on with your question. Could I remind you we are still on operations and maintenance, we will be reaching detail of capital after that. Do you have a question, Mr. Picco?

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I will ask some more questions when we get to the detail of capital on 11-16, but in the capital projections, it does not show me the monies the Minister is talking about. When I went to the Resource Committee, I was not informed of that either. This is something new to me. I can only go by what is in the main estimates book, which forecasts the capital expenditure of this government for the next few years. If it is not here in this book then I know a lot of things, I try to be informed, but I have missed this one. So, I accept Minister Kakfwi's explanation

Page 913

and I will wait until we get to the next page, Mr. Steen, and have some fun in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Was there a question in there?

MR. PICCO:

No, it was a compliment to the Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the areas wildlife, fisheries and renewable resources as it was once called, what is the distribution of biologists within each region?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, we have indicated in our re-organization where there was a previous concentration of biologists at the headquarters level, we have tried as much as possible to take those positions and allocate them to regional operations. We shall try to put together the exact allocation of those positions in each region and give that to you in a few minutes. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Total operations and maintenance, \$50,133,000. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the area of tourism, there are a lot of concerns raised by committee in relation to the cuts that have been taken, especially in regards to the Northwest Territories tourism associations. In light of the amount of tourism potential we do have in the north and also the amount of resources it brings to communities, especially in the summer, especially areas that are hit economically where they do not have the potential of

mines, or oil and gas fields, the tourism area is one area we feel where there is a real need for this government to spend more resources and also develop our tourism markets. Also, to provide the long term benefit to the NWT by marketing the Northwest Territories globally through tourism. I would like to ask the Minister in this area, what is the government doing to improve that particular area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, we have indicated earlier we are working on two tourism bodies, Nunavut Tourism Association and the Western Arctic Tourism Group. We are providing them with the funding and support necessary so they can put together a plan on how to promote the respective areas to increase tourism over the next few years. The resources we have allocated are sufficient and relative to the other areas where we have allocated resources. This is the way we decided to proceed at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the area of tourism, one of the concerns that have come from the tourism association is the amount of cuts they have taken in regards to the operation and maintenance of that area of responsibility, that was given to these associations to allow the public to take a more active role in tourism and marketing of tourism. Yet the resources they have to operate and maintain has been cut drastically, in regards to them having the ability to market properly and also to maintain and operate an organization so they can do their job. In that particular area, the committee felt there is a need for funding, especially when we are investing in the north with the tourism future that we have. I would like to ask the Minister exactly what is the amount of marketing dollars they have received to date?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because the government had faced cut backs in the funding we provide to outside agencies, even our own sectors in our department have reflected that as well, we have asked these tourism associations who are made up of business people and entrepreneurs if they could find some creative way to get better return on the monies we have allocated for these activities. These jobs, I think, have taken on that challenge. We have asked them to look at it in terms of partnership funding. We want these businesses, associations, outfitters to provide membership fees to these associations so there is some sense of commitment and investment and ownership by them that would increase the amount available to them. At this time, the core funding amount we have allocated within the budget for tourism associations is about \$467,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. For the record, we are on resource management and economic development. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Proceed with the motion.

Committee Motion 27-13(4): Recommendation to Return Funding for the NWT Arctic Tourism Association to Historical Levels

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development take every effort to return funding for the Northwest Territories Arctic Tourism Association to its historical levels.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is distributed to Members and translated into the appropriate language. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? Thank you. I am reminded again, once the motion is called and the question is called, you should know by now we do not generally go back to debate the motion. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Chairman, I did have my hand up, but you were not looking my way. May I speak to it now, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Ootes, go ahead.

Page 914

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very supportive of this motion. The tourism industry in the Northwest Territories is the second largest industry, not counting government. They are the creators of a lot of quality jobs, both seasonal and full time jobs throughout the territory. In the western part of the territories alone, tourism contributes 500 jobs. They contribute \$16 million in labour income, \$21 million in tax revenues, and \$75 million in total contributions to the GDP. I feel by cutting funding to these particular organizations, we are taking away from the very people that can contribute to our economy. Since the federal ADA program has been cut, this particular industry has seen some \$330,000 removed. They need assistance and they need help. If they do not have the opportunity for funding to go to international trade shows, consumer shows and to do tourism training, then in effect it is the people throughout the territories that are going to be suffering out of this. My position is, Mr. Chairman, I think it is very important funding in this area be reinstated. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? Hands up please. Down. Opposed? The motion is carried. Resource management and economic development. I have, Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On resource management and economic development, I am wondering if the Minister can tell me, I will hold my question for half a minute, the area of much concern is in the fur industry. What I would be interested in knowing is how much have we been spending over the last few years to promote the fur industry? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I take it the honourable Minister will be advised of the question by his officials. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is asking how much money this government has spent in promoting the fur industry in the last few years. I am not certain what he means by promoting. If he means how much money have we spent in support of groups, then I think we can answer that. It basically ranges between \$15,000 to \$30,000 a year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the Minister has part of the question I was proposing correct. What I am interested in finding out, comparing that to the amount of revenue generated was what I was leading to. How much are we spending promoting the fur industry, more from the point of view of resources we are expending against the fur lobby as opposed to what funds we are generating from it for this government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have quite a range of different ways we support the fur and traditional harvesting activity. For instance, we have contributed and will have contributed a total of \$15 million to the Nunavut Wildlife Harvesters Program by the time we are finished. Our total contribution in support of that trust will be \$50 million. The same will be true for our contribution to harvesters assistance programs and trust set up here in the western part of the territories.

We are providing money in support of a minimum price program for certain species of wildlife trapped by people in the Northwest Territories. We provide some money and make grants available to people who work on trying to invent new, more humane traps. We provide money for organized community hunts. We provide money to local wildlife committees, as well as regional wildlife organizations. We do provide quite a diverse series of ways in which we provide money to harvesters in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I have Mr. Henry, Mr. Steen, and Mr. Krutko. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure if the Minister has answered this. He told me there was \$30,000 spent on promoting the fur industry. If the Minister can comment on that again, I am also interested in knowing if the department has a bottom line on when they will consider there is nothing to be gained in fighting the anti-lobby, anti-fur promoters especially in Europe. They have resources available to them much larger than what we have as a government in the Northwest Territories and potentially in Canada. Does the department have a line drawn in the sand which they will conceive that we cannot change people's attitudes, especially in Europe, regarding the purchase of furs harvested in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been in spite of the activity of certain political bodies in Europe, the price of fur has rebounded dramatically in the last year from a very low period over the last five or ten years. Prices for fur have increased dramatically this year. I hope it will continue. There is no magic line we draw in regard to the support we will provide to this activity. I think again, once we develop this economic framework, Members of the Legislature will have a better structured way of assessing how many resources should go into these different sectors based on the measurable returns we have, plus the more subjective type of value we put on these activities. We will probably move towards taking all these little pots of money we make available to hunters and trappers across the territories and tally it up under this activity, so the Member can see how much we do in support of timber harvesting in the Northwest Territories as compared to support for hunters and trappers as compared to the money we spend on promoting fishing. That is where we would be leading towards.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has told us about the price of fur increasing. How much would have been purchased in Europe in the last year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Page 915

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The total returns on the fur last year was in a little excess of \$2 million. The majority of that fur is purchased in Europe. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Resource management and economic development. I have Mr. Steen, Mr. Krutko, and Mr. Roland. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could we get a breakdown of these grants and contributions of the \$24,360,000?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, page 11-21.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Steen, do you want to wait until we get to the detail of the grants and contributions?

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was not aware that this is the same money. I have total contributions under details of grants and contributions on page 11-25, \$24,485,000 compared to \$24,360,000. I was not aware this was the same money. Is it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I am advised that most of it is under resource management and economic development. I

am told the Minister might be able to answer. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Steen is looking up the total grants and contributions for the department, that is on 11-25. That is the reason the figures are different.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Resource management, economic development. Mr. Steen, you have another question for the Minister? Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

No, Mr. Chairman. I will wait until we reach the breakdown of the grants.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I have Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things noted by the committees on the \$1,362,000 which is identified as mineral, oil, and gas consultant funds, out of that, almost 80 percent of that fund is being spent at headquarters level. One of the questions raised is in regards to distribution of those funds on a more equitable matter to other areas and all communities and regions, especially in regards to the large mineral exploration activity that is happening from the Yellowknife area all the way up to the High Arctic, oil and gas activity in the Cameron Hills area, Fort Liard, Mackenzie Delta, and the Sahtu. What has the Minister done to ensure there is a more equitable way of distributing funds to the other regions so they can be involved in the consultation with industry, oil and gas, and mineral companies? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have done some work in this area. For instance. It has come back from a one day visit to Calgary to meet companies actively working in the territories, meeting with some people who are expressing an interest in renewed activity up here, as well as people from the regulatory regimes that have some issues and concerns, as well as some

from the environmental sector. In the Deh Cho, we inquired about the willingness of the communities to look at working in partnership with industry and the communities on a regional basis, along with ourselves, through a DIS type of model. Some resources can be channelled to communities to work in promoting oil and gas activities and their own particular interests in the Beaufort and Mackenzie Delta. At this time, there is almost no interest from industry to engage on an active basis in any type of work. We are uncertain as to what money would be useful to provide to communities to assess that. We continue to explore with companies, ways and means by which they may find renewed interest in spending exploration money in that particular area. Right now, we have not found it. That might partially explain the lack of any particular money allocated for communities to get involved in the oil and gas business again. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not think this government was responsible for evaluating where the interest was, I thought it was up to the communities and the companies. When you make the response that there is no interest in the Mackenzie Delta, apparently there is a company under discussion with the Gwich'in Development Corp and the communities in the Delta called High Level Energy, which presently have oil and gas leases along the Sahtu - Gwich'in boundary lines. They have two leases. Under the arrangement, they have to develop those leases within a certain time period. I think that is the reason for this particular discussion. It seemed like those who come to the trough and this government determining who will get the funding and a large portion of that money is being held back at headquarters to evaluate what they feel is their priority list versus the ideas in the communities. On one hand, we are telling the communities we have a deficit problem, we cannot generate jobs, we cannot generate employment, it is up to you to go do it. Yet this is one area the communities and regions could start marketing themselves to the oil industry, the mining industry and other industries in Canada. These funds have been used on consultants and everything else, but I think it is time we let the communities start marketing themselves. That is what this money should be spent for. With that, I would like to table a motion regarding the whole idea of distributing these funds in a more

equitable manner than having 80 percent of it sitting at headquarters.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Krutko, are you making a motion here?

Committee Motion 28-13(4): Recommendation to Ensure a More Equitable Distribution of Oil and Gas Consultant Funding

MR. KRUTKO:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. I move this committee recommends that the Minister of Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development take the necessary steps to ensure a

Page 916

more equitable distribution of funds for mineral, oil, and gas consultants across all the regions of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is circulated and translated. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour, signify. Down please. Opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Thank you. We are on resource management and economic development. On the list I have Mr. Roland, Mr. Henry and Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make a motion to extend sitting hours, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Ootes, I am advised that is an inappropriate way of getting the floor. As I indicated earlier, I have Mr. Roland, Mr. Henry and yourself. There was no point of order. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the area of parks and tourism, I had asked the Minister if there was any policy or agreement with the Yukon government in the area of tourism. I would like to know if he has uncovered anything. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of any agreement with the Yukon government or the Yukon First Nations in the area of tourism. I do know some interest has been expressed over the last year. At the official level, there is some discussion about looking at signing some sort of agreement to work in partnership with the Yukon. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I would like to move that we extend sitting hours to conclude the estimates of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. There is a motion. The motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Is it debatable?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

It is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion please signify. Down please. Opposed? Thank you. According to my understanding, if there is time, the chair would vote in favour of a motion if the motion is to allow the committee to resolve the item on the table. I also know that the status quo at this time is to sit until six. We have not had any instruction from anyone to go beyond six to my understanding. I will vote against the motion.

-- Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is defeated. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of tourism, will the Minister keep myself and the Inuvik region informed of what is happening in the area of tourism agreements with the Yukon, because we have a significant tie to them through the Dempster Highway? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, I would be very pleased to do that. I know we have expressed interest with meeting with the Yukon government at the earliest opportunity. We would be meeting with the Minister responsible for tourism. Mr. Charlie Furlong, who is heading the Western Arctic Tourism Association, has asked me to meet with the Yukon Minister and the associations over there at the first opportunity. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Roland, are you okay with that? I have on the list, Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of resource management economic development's mandate are other initiatives with other departments and opportunities with resource extraction activities in the north. Could the Minister give a brief outline of what other initiatives he is working with in other departments? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the employment strategy which we are working on with the Minister of Finance and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is one major piece of work that we are doing with another department. The Premier has taken on the responsibility of overall devolution. The department is working as support in this initiative. Those are the two that immediately come to mind. Regarding the energy program, we are working in partnership with Municipal and Community Affairs. The NWT Power Corporation and the Housing Corporation are our partners concerning the energy program. I forgot the Association for Municipalities. They are also partners on the energy program with us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister tell us what promotions they are doing for the Northwest Territories to obtain a diamond sorting facility for the north?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am the Minister responsible for dealing with the diamond evaluation facility and for dealing with BHP on an overall basis. We have been working with federal officials in regard to trying to get as much as possible, both political and bureaucratic commitment to locate a diamond evaluation facility here in the Northwest Territories. We believe we are doing as much as we can under the circumstances to assure northern people that it will be located here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

Page 917

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I will recognize the clock and report progress to the Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses who appeared before the committee. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997/98 and Committee Report 4-13(4) and would like to report progress with two motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move the report of the committee of the whole be in progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. Seconded by Mr. Evaloarjuk. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 10, petitions.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 10. Do I have any nays? We have nays. You do not have unanimous consent. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meeting at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, at 10:30 of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, at 12:00 noon of the Management and Services Board.

Orders of the day for Thursday, February 27, 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 Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 11, Loan Authorization Act, 1997-1998
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in 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
 - Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 1996-1997
 - 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 to Thursday, February 27, 1997, at 1:30 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT