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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, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Honourable Don Morin, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Ningark, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Honourable Maniok 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. Miltenberger. Good morning Members. I would like to thank Mr. Ningark for taking the chair yesterday. Mahsi cho. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 65-13(4): Workplace Education

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I had the pleasure of speaking to a group of people at a forum on workplace education in the NWT. The forum included literacy workers, business people, representatives of union, aboriginal groups and community groups. You may remember that last fall I announced the NWT Workplace Education Strategy which is designed to broaden the territorial government's literacy partnership with large and small businesses, labour organizations and employers. The strategy is designed to develop more opportunities for workers to develop their basic reading, writing, math and critical thinking skills. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is supporting the strategy with \$200,000 in funding during the current fiscal and in 1997-98.

Mr. Speaker, there are many reasons why workplace education is needed in the territories. Workers often have the entry level skills for specific jobs but may lack the skills to take on more demanding tasks or

adapt to changes in the workplace. Changing technology, downsizing, revised health and safety standards or the use of new equipment can affect the nature of employees' jobs. People who do not have the skills needed to deal with these changes may feel that they have no option but to quit their jobs even though they have other skills and knowledge that are valuable to the organization. Providing opportunities for people to develop their basic skills in the workplace increases the stability of the work force, which is good for business and provides greater job satisfaction for employees.

Mr. Speaker, workplace education can also increase awareness of safety and health issues, resulting in fewer job related accidents and health problems. About 100 people attended this week's forum. Guest speakers and facilitators from other parts of Canada were able to share their expertise and experience in workplace learning. People involved in some of the five pilot projects in the Northwest Territories shared their experiences and brought a unique northern perspective to the forum.

Mr. Speaker, although this is an area of adult education that has not received much attention, it is clear there is wide support across the Northwest Territories for this type of initiative. As a result of this forum, I look forward to seeing new partnerships formed and more opportunities for workplace education being offered to northerners in the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Minister's Statement 66-13(4): Educational Bursary in Memory of Al Woodhouse

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last fall, many residents of the Northwest Territories were saddened to learn of the death of Al Woodhouse. Mr. Woodhouse taught in the eastern Arctic for many years before moving into a career in hotel management. After he left teaching, he continued to support the local school by working with teachers on various projects and providing work experience for students at the hotels he managed. Mr. Woodhouse was a role model who showed how the school and community can work together to provide the best education possible for young people.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform this Assembly that an educational bursary has been established in memory of Mr. Woodhouse. The bursary has been set up and will be administered by the Iqaluit Rotary Club and the Nunavut Research Institute. This partnership is appropriate, since Mr. Woodhouse was an active member of the Rotary Club and often promoted science education and research.

The objective of the annual bursary is to assist students from Nunavut to obtain post-secondary education in the sciences, technology, engineering or the application of traditional knowledge in science which can be applied to future work in Nunavut. Selection will be based on the future aspirations of the applicant for a career within Nunavut, their academic record and financial need. About \$30,000 has already been donated to the bursary fund. Organizers are hoping to reach the \$50,000 mark, at which point the bursary will be self-

Page 956

supporting. Each award will be about \$2,000 and will be based on annual interest drawn from the principal.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Iqaluit Rotary Club, Nunavut Arctic College and the Nunavut Research Institute for their vision in establishing the Al Woodhouse Bursary. It is an excellent way to honour the memory of someone who was committed to serving his community and who worked tirelessly to promote education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Privatization of Petroleum Products Division

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to speak on the subject of the privatization of the government's petroleum products division or POL as it is sometimes referred to. As a Member of the Infrastructure Committee, I feel that I have some degree of understanding of the problems with the current manner in which petroleum products are delivered or sold to the smaller non-market communities. The

reason Public Works and Services wants to divest itself of this responsibility, as I understand it, is because of inefficiencies in the present system. There are about 27 PYs associated with this function, with the purchase and sales of the product through the revolving fund. I think it is important to note that in communities where there is a strong private market for petroleum products, this market is served by the private sector. When you get out into the smaller non-market communities, the reason the government is involved seems quite obvious to me. In those communities, the government is the predominate consumer of the product. It is purchased by public housing authorities, government funded hamlets, government-owned infrastructures such as schools, recreation centres, health centres and most significantly the NWT Power Corporation which accounts for approximately 40 percent of the purchases. A minority or residual volume is purchased by private homeowners and consumers.

Privatization could mean a number of different things. Portions of this function, such as delivery and sales of product to private consumers, could quite easily be privatized. This would generate some economic and community development activity. Could we address the portions of the service which are seen as inefficient? If the will of the government is to completely remove themselves from this exercise, three things should be kept in mind. As an essential commodity, it would have to be regulated. If we give away the assets... Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Hay River is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mrs. Groenewegen, you have unanimous consent.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the will of the government is to completely remove themselves from this exercise, three things should be kept in mind. It is an essential commodity and, as such, should be regulated. If we give away the assets we will not easily get them back and we, as a government, are the major consumer of these products in the non-market communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

If I could remind the Members to please slow down for the translators. We do have Members in this House that require that. All the statements that are missed, those Members do not have the benefit of getting the full story. Just a reminder. Members' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Member's Statement On Congratulations To Deegah Tatti

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Monday, February 24th was a very proud day for Steve Iveson and Phoebe Tatti. Their son Deegah graduated from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Training Centre in Regina.

-- Applause

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

I want to recognize their achievement today and have invited them to be with us here in the gallery. Deegah Tatti, who wanted to be an RCMP officer since he was four years old, is now officially Constable Tatti. He will be leaving shortly on assignment to the Hay River detachment.

-- Applause

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

His grandparents, Phyllis and Tom Iveson, along with parents Steve and Phoebe, were on hand in Regina to watch Deegah receive his diploma. Unfortunately, his grandparents from the Sahtu, Lucy and Frances Tatti, were unable to travel due to health but they sent their love and best wishes. Mr. Speaker, Deegah is a northern child, born, raised and educated here in the north. He left us

Page 957

for a short while to further his education and training. Now he is back with us to take his rightful place in our society and will be working hard to make life better for all of us here in the Northwest Territories. I want to wish Deegah good luck and congratulate him and his parents. I am very proud to introduce them here today. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement On Impact of Societal Labels

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, throughout our lives we all carry labels based on where we live, what we do and what roles we have in our families. Society also classifies us based on our income levels, our social standing, our cultural backgrounds and who we associate with or call friends. But with these labels come judgements and once you think of someone in terms of any one of those labels, you may unfortunately make a statement about their opinion and position before giving them a chance to speak.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share an example with you. Over the past two weeks, since the Nunavut Leaders' Summit in Cambridge Bay, there have been a number of comments made by people and in particular representatives of women's organizations, questioning my comments and opinions on gender parity in the Nunavut Legislature. At this meeting, I spoke on behalf of the Nunavut Caucus and stated our position that a decision to include gender parity is one that, if implemented, would fundamentally change the concept of democratic government and should not be decided by a small group of politicians and leaders but instead be taken to the public through a plebiscite.

No government currently legislates who can or should serve in government based upon any personal characteristics, especially not their gender. To prove there is not a public consensus and a public agreement on this issue and to make a case for a plebiscite, I expressed my own personal view that legislating gender parity may discriminate and label women, rather than advance them. Again, let me stress that I expressed my opinion as a person and as a citizen of Nunavut to illustrate the fact that not all people, men or women, agree that gender parity should be included in the Nunavut government.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Aivilik is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Ms. Thompson, you have unanimous consent.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Mr. Speaker, since that time, my comments have been misrepresented in a manner which demonstrates some of my fears regarding the concept of gender parity. Some people have stated publicly that my comments were likely influenced and controlled by my male colleagues in the Nunavut Caucus and hence implied that, as a person and as a woman, I could not have formed or expressed this opinion on my own. I wonder if it ever occurred to these people that perhaps in expressing my opinion it was I who influenced my colleagues to come to an agreement regarding our position to support a plebiscite.

-- Applause

Mr. Speaker, it places an unfair and incorrect label and judgment that I can only speak as a woman instead of an equal citizen when, in fact, I represent all the constituents in my riding of Aivilik, not just the women.

-- Applause

Overall, the public and personal statements regarding my comments fulfil my fears that if women are legislated into the Nunavut government, their views and opinions may be called into question because of who they are rather than on the merit of their opinions, ideas or comments.

-- Applause

For the record, Mr. Speaker, I would like to declare my position in this government. Obviously, I believe a woman's perspective is just as important as any perspective in society and in government. I would not be standing here if I did not believe that. When I chose to run for a seat in this current government, I did not decide to do it because I am a woman or to limit myself to women's perspectives or to only speak on women's issues. I decided to do it because of who I am and what I believe in and because I wanted to make a difference. I believe all issues facing government today, and in the future, are people issues. Mr. Speaker, I am a person first and foremost. I would like to thank the Members of this House for respecting and involving my opinions as an equal.

(Translation) When we had the meeting in Cambridge Bay, there has been a lot of talk about me on the news about this issue of gender parity, especially in regards to the women saying things about me. I was

in Cambridge Bay as one of the leaders to meet with the Nunavut leaders. To those women who have made negative comments about me, I would like to say that I want to be able to talk about my feelings as a leader. I am not saying my opinion just because I am a woman and no one pushed me to say what I had to say. When I became elected to this Legislature, I did not just want to help the women, I wanted to be able to express my opinions by helping all my constituents and I wanted to be able to say that here in the Legislature, I wanted to make some changes. That is why I was elected to the Legislature. I am not here to speak on behalf of just women. I wanted to make changes that the people of Nunavut wanted. I was talked about, behind my back, in regards to women's groups who said they were embarrassed about what I had to say. I want to tell them that gender equality is not what we want in the Nunavut Legislature. We want to be there because we want to represent our people, not just the women in the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Members' statements. Again, regarding Members' statements, they are

Page 958

limited to two and a half minutes. When you double it, it is more than the allowable time for a Member to conclude his statement. I just want to remind the Members that you do have two and a half minutes. We have been here over a year now, we should be able to guess the amount of time required to do a Member's statement and a short time to conclude it. Members' statements. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Member's Statement On Gender Parity in Nunavut Legislature

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the last little while I have listened to news items and phone-in shows in Nunavut regarding gender parity by the different interest groups. As we have publicly stated, the Nunavut MLAs would like to see this issue brought to the people for a vote. Let the people use their common sense when they decide whether they will have an equal number of men and

women in their Legislature or whether they will have representation by people based on merit.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke out against gender parity, not because I am a man, but because I am very aware of the rights of men and women as being equal within our democratic government and our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. At present, and since the mid-1900s, women have had the right to vote and to run for any office they wish. Men have the right as well, although their rights occurred well ahead of women's rights. My point here, Mr. Speaker, is that I wish to remind people that we are not hiding anything when we disagree on the gender parity issue. The point is that we have that equality in this day and age and I do not think it is a fair statement to say that because women's rights are lagging in the north they are under-represented. Women have always been encouraged to run for office, Mr. Speaker. I implore more women to run for what they believe in. I encourage women to become leaders and to run on their own merit. I encourage women, as equals, to run against men and men to run against women as equals. In this fair and objective manner, men need not have their freedom bound by having to run only against their gender and, vice versa, for women to run against only their gender for the sake of gender parity.

Mr. Speaker, every human being in Canada has similar rights and freedoms. Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Evaloarjuk is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Evaloarjuk, you have unanimous consent.

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this fair and objective manner, men need not have their freedom bound by having to run only against their gender and, vice versa, for women to run against only their gender for the sake of gender parity. Mr. Speaker, every human being in Canada has certain rights and freedoms granted as a Canadian. This freedom includes having the opportunity to run against a male or a female, whether he or she is black, white, Inuit, Dene or Metis. These rights are not divided into categories under "more equal than others" terms. These rights are straightforward and clear. They do not discriminate. Mr. Speaker, I believe that was the

intent of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and that is the fundamental reason for my not finding gender parity a necessity in the Nunavut Legislature. Women do have the right to run for office and I encourage them to do so for the new Nunavut Legislature, if they so wish. They are welcome and I encourage it.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my statement will encourage all people in Nunavut, men and women, to recognize we have those rights and freedoms to practice today if we so wish. That is why we are Canadians. Mr. Speaker, based on my constituents' phone calls and letters and having their support on this issue, I have been able to speak on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Awarding Government Contracts to Local Business

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, if you would allow me, I would like to give very special thanks to Yellowknife Stanton Hospital and also to a very special doctor, Doctor Wheeler. Thank you very much and keep up the good work. (Translation) This morning, Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about private businesses that try to get contracts. I would like to say in Pangnirtung there is a construction company in the private sector and this construction company has just Inuit employees. It is an Inuit-run business. There used to be eight of them but there are only seven at this time. I would just like to clarify for you, the people who want to get their own business have a hard time when they first start out and some of them are successful and some of them are not. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say the contracts that are provided by the NWT Housing Corporation to the private businesses should be tendered out and given to more private businesses and small businesses because contracts should be awarded to the local business people in the communities first. The Inuit businesses or small businesses that start out in the communities cannot purchase any locally manufactured or locally owned material from their community, so they should be assisted by the government. I feel the local business people should be given the opportunity to

get contracts from the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Selecting Inuvik as a Conference Location

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by sending greetings back to my wife and children back in Inuvik.

Mr. Speaker, on February 19th, Mr. Kakfwi, the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development informed this House that the process to develop a Protected Area strategy would begin in Inuvik in the week of March 3rd. I would like to thank the Minister for selecting

Page 959

Inuvik as the site to start this historic initiative. Not only will the meeting give the town a badly needed shot in the arm, Inuvik is a wise choice for this meeting. Inuvik means the place of man. Mr. Speaker, the word man is used in the broadest sense to mean people, mankind.

Since its birth, Inuvik has been a crossroads where people of many cultures from many places have met. The community is an everyday meeting place for the Gwich'in, Inuvialuit and non-aboriginal residents. It has been and remains a centre for research. The region has been a testing ground for new technologies and ideas. Inuvik is an ideal place to bring together the many varied interests which will be needed to develop a strategy that will meet the economic, social and environmental needs of the northerners in the future.

The town of Inuvik has hosted big conferences and meetings in the past. Mr. Speaker, Inuvik always welcomes visitors. I am sure those who travel to Inuvik for the meeting on a Protected Areas Strategy will be greeted as warmly as other visitors and have a time which they will long remember. Mr. Speaker, all MLAs have been invited to attend the Inuvik gathering. I encourage my fellow Members to visit my community and participate in the deliberations on a Protected Areas Strategy. This is an opportunity to get on the ground floor of an exciting initiative that we

will hear much about in the future. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I extend a welcome to those who will meet in Inuvik. We all have a responsibility to look after the land, to manage it, to use it properly and protect it to meet our needs and the needs of our future generations.

Those deliberating at the conference in Inuvik have an important role to play in our future. They face a task that can be best completed by working together. I wish the Minister and the participants the best in their deliberations. Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my thanks to the Minister and hope the other Ministers will follow his lead by holding conferences in Inuvik as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Need For Higher Education

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the course of this Assembly most, if not all, of my colleagues have spoken on the importance of getting a good education. Today I would again like to stress this need for our residents to achieve the highest amount of education they can.

Mr. Speaker, in this changing world of ours, our people need to further themselves in order to compete in this everchanging society. The word is getting there but we must continue to keep education in mind for all our residents. We must support our young and old alike. We must find the ways to provide education to all.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues have stressed the need for adult education to be offered in all communities and I believe we must find a way to see this happen.

Mr. Speaker, our residents have many opportunities for employment in the years to come. The different mining companies that are developing sites will need trained workers with relatively high economic skills. We have BHP that will be starting operations in the near future, who will require numerous trained staff and will remain within the next ten years. They will only hire individuals that have at least grade 12 education. This is one very good example of why our people need good educations. Mr. Speaker, in my

region as I stated in previous sessions, we have 26 residents attending college or university over the north and the rest of Canada. With more coming towards wanting to upgrade their skills and attend a variety of interesting studies, I hope they encourage all our people to get involved in education and fulfil their dreams. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Accusations Made Regarding Traditional Knowledge

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night on CBC North a government employee, Frances Widdowson, made some comments on her views on traditional knowledge and the spiritual beliefs of aboriginal people. For myself, I was very offended by those statements and I do not believe it is the time for a government employee to downgrade aboriginal people's beliefs, thoughts or rights to speak their minds.

-- Applause

**MR. KRUTKO:**

This individual made accusations that the aboriginal traditional knowledge is not relevant nor their spiritual beliefs. Yet aboriginal people have been in the north for 10,000 or 20,000 years compared to Europeans who have come to North America in the last hundreds of years. I believe we are finally making a stride in recognizing traditional knowledge for what it is. It is knowledge which has been handed down for thousands and thousands of years by aboriginal people in one of the harshest climates in the world. For an employee of this government to make accusations that her religious beliefs are stronger than an aboriginal right to recognize their spirituality of surviving in the country long before there were Bibles, religions or things that we take as religious beliefs in the sense of the European market.

I would like to close by stating there have been hundreds, if not hundreds of millions of dollars spent in the scientific community on research regarding polar gas, the Mackenzie Valley pipeline, the Norman Wells pipeline, and the mining industry by scientists

who fly up here during the summer season to do their tests in a month or two month period, fly south, go to a university and analyze it over the winter and they say that information is more powerful than people who have lived here and collected this information for thousands and thousands of years. I would like to ask the appropriate Minister a question on this particular subject. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Page 960

Member's Statement On Member Absent From the House

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the House that the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Henry, will not be in the House on Friday or Monday. Before he left he mumbled something about catching a plane to meet the United States Secretary of State and something about the Middle East crisis. I did not catch it all, but I am sure he will do a good job.

-- Laughter

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Mr. Speaker, seriously, Mr. Henry will not be in the House today or Monday. He had to attend a previous engagement that he arranged quite some time before we decided to extend the session for a week a few days ago. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Insecurities Felt by GNWT Employees

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that continues to bother me about the GNWT is the secrecy and the MI5 approach to everything. This has the effect of silencing employees coming forward with ideas, solutions or sometimes criticisms. Mr. Speaker, from the entry level clerk to the senior



managers, many of these individuals are afraid to say anything contrary about the government or give information because they fear for their jobs or fear they will be disciplined. Is this the way to run a government, by fear? I think not. Is this some recent phenomenon? I think not.

Mr. Speaker, I will give you an example. I had a call a few days ago at my office. It was a middle manager for my constituency who wanted to make me aware of a certain situation. The call came after five Eastern Standard Time and was shrouded in low tones and whispers. It was like something out of Kafka. The point being a simple phone call to their MLA is so threatening to our employees they would rather not call because of fear of being disciplined. The question is why they feel this way. Last year, I brought up the fact, as did some other MLAs, that when we wanted to speak to the senior superintendents or senior bureaucracy in our ridings they are under the impression they could not speak to us on GNWT matters, although they were our constituents.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Approach To Affirmative Action

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say a few words about the Affirmative Action Policy and approach. I raised some questions last year as to when this policy would be brought forward by the government to be reviewed by all the Members here. We urgently need to address this particular issue, Mr. Speaker. I am disappointed this has not been brought forward to us yet. Every day individuals apply to the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Affirmative Action Policy is in effect. People get effected by that. Every summer our students are caught up with this particular problem with their peers. Problems of this policy are not going to go away through wishful thinking, Mr. Speaker. We need to review it and we need to review this soon.

The other day I asked the Premier for some detailed statistical analysis to be done of every area of government, so we can see where the successes and the failures of this government are in relationship to

the Affirmative Action Policy. We need the statistical dissection or make-up of the government and also the boards and agencies run by the various regions whose success rates are nothing to write home about. The impact of that has great impact on our overall statistics. I am not content to accept blanket statements that our present Affirmative Action Policy is only 34 percent successful without detailed analysis to back this up.

My information attributes a higher rate in certain areas. If those areas are under-represented, let us find out why. Is it because of a lack of availability of qualified people? In the course of trying to correct our problems, let us not chastise or unfairly treat our employees that serve us so well, whose only short-coming is they were non-aboriginal or long-time northerners. When we are doing analysis, it would also be beneficial for the government to address how this policy was originally crafted by our political predecessor. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Ootes, you have unanimous consent.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In researching the original development of the Affirmative Action Policy, some questions were raised that the draft policy would exceed what the Human Rights Commission would approve. The question needs to be looked at. How did the Department of Justice and the government of the day address concerns that this policy not exceed what the Human Rights Act would normally allow in under-represented programs in specially employment areas?

Let me tell you how I feel about this whole issue. I am supportive of ensuring the makeup of this government and its civil service is reflective of its population. I truly believe there

Page 961

are inequities to be solved. But is the Affirmative Action Policy the answer to solve that inequity? I do not know because I have nothing to go on, no convincing detail data. There are defenders of this policy and there are detractors. The other day, Mr.

Henry stated that he wanted this policy eliminated. Let us stop right now and get the government to address this issue. Have them do the research and bring forward the data. I am all for a revised approach that gets rid of the mistrust and suspicion this policy seems to create. In our jurisdiction, we are in an unique situation. We are one of four minority groups. The aboriginal people are in fact the majority of our population. While the original inhabitants of the north are the majority, they remain seriously under-represented in commerce, business and government. There is no good reason why they should remain economically and financially deprived in the north.

We have an opportunity to get the economic situations of the aboriginal peoples correct and not on welfare. The affirmative action policy needs full review and analysis. All of the stakeholders affected by that government policy need an opportunity to revisit the policy and honestly reassess its true intents. The Human Rights Act and employment equity legislation was served as our base to revamp our approach here in the north. In the north, we can do what the rest of the world could not do. We could ensure the aboriginal people become fully educated and masters of their social and cultural change processes and wealthy by all measures of their traditional and Canadian ways of life. We need to do this in a fair and equitable way to all our northern citizens. I urge all concerned Members of this House to join me in a concerted effort to become a model of true success where one jurisdiction got the health and well-being of all its people right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Administrative Tasks  
Related To Division

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make some brief comments on the issue of division. As we see the end of the road coming with this particular budget process within the next week, it is time to turn our attention very quickly to division. We have been told and learnt in the last year and a half that we are behind schedule on the biggest initiative that is going to face this government. Mr. Speaker, we have to move ahead with the administrative plans to split the headquarters as it now exists, delineate the staff that are going to be required in the east and start putting

all of those pieces in place so that people know very clearly without any more fear and uncertainty as to the direction that is going to be taken by this government and the impact that it is going to have on the people affected.

Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation as a government to do this. We have to work with our partners, the federal government, NTI and the western coalition on formula financing. As a government, from an administrative point of view, we have an obligation to start to put the pieces in place, so that come April 1, 1999, both territories can start functioning. To avoid a huge snafu where people are scrambling around, nobody knowing where the light switch is in the building to write cheques and any number of possible nightmare scenarios that can be painted. We have an obligation as a Legislature to move now and more quickly on that particular function because the administrative side is going to be critical in the first few days of each new territory after April 1, 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Opening of Fort Liard  
Community Hall

**HON. JAMES ANTOINE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I had the opportunity to participate in the official opening of the Fort Liard Community Hall last weekend, Saturday, February 22nd. MLAs James Rabesca, Floyd Roland and Mike Miltenberger accompanied me along with staff Pietro de Bastiani, Edith Giroux and Kat Nicholson. Ms. Penny Ballantyne, deputy minister of MACA, on behalf of the Honourable Manik Thompson, was along for this trip. Mr. Speaker, it is very important that Members of this Legislative Assembly take any opportunity to experience other parts of the Northwest Territories, for we do make decisions that affect the lives of everyone in the NWT. For that, I thank the Members for accompanying me on this trip.

Mr. Speaker, it was an eventful day in Fort Liard. The MLA Sharks played a hard fought hockey game against the community and we won the match 10 to 7.

-- Applause

We won under the watchful eyes of our coach, James Scotty Bowman Rabesca. Several of the Sharks most

spectacular goals were scored by my colleague from Inuvik, who has an incredible reach and finesse around the goal.

-- Applause

He reminds me of Jean Belliveau. Our defensive play was anchored by my smooth skating colleague for Thebacha. The Toronto Maple Leafs could use his skills right now. However, the truth to our success could be found in the top goal tending that we got from Fabian Hope, who was loaned to us by the community. Following the game, the community hosted a feast and drum dance and a dance to celebrate the opening of the community hall. This long awaited facility is a welcome addition to the community. It will be used for gatherings, community events, dances and meetings. Well-used facilities such as this have a very positive impact on the communities and will help bring people together. On behalf of the residents, I extend thanks to the former and current Member, Ministers of Municipal and Community Affairs for providing the residents of Fort Liard with this much needed community hall. I would also like to thank Her Worship, Nicole Latour-Theede, and the hamlet council, Chief Harry Deneron and the band council, and I am running out of time, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Nahendeh is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have

Page 962

any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Antoine, you have unanimous consent.

**HON. JAMES ANTOINE:**

Thank you. I would like to thank the Metis local, Charley Hope and his hockey team and the entire community of Fort Liard for the hospitality afforded to myself and my colleagues during our visit to Fort Liard.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind all the Members and my colleagues in the House today about the concerns raised from time to time by our staff and you, Mr. Speaker, regarding our health. After a brief visit to the beautiful Liard valley, my honourable colleagues have returned to this House with renewed vigour and a productive attitude. I can only attribute that to the healthy conditions

experienced while visiting the Nahendeh country. I look forward to returning to spend more time with the people in Nahendeh once this House ends sometime next week. Thank you. Mahsi.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure today to recognize the mayor of Hay River, His Worship Jack Rowe in the gallery.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the Grand Chief for the Dene Nation, Mr. Billy Erasmus.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize the National Chief of the Dene Nation, Bill Erasmus, if he is still here. He is from the community of Ndilo and Yellowknife North constituency and Mr. Erasmus is doing a very good job with very few dollars.

-- Laughter

**MR. ERASMUS:**

I would urge this government to learn a lesson on affirmative action from Mr. Erasmus. He has a staff of 10 and they are all women. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my wife, a fine mother and an even better grandmother and the longest serving community librarian in the north, Jeri Miltenberger.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Andrew Johnson, the RVP for UNW in the Baffin. Andrew says he had his hair shaved off in recognition of all the cuts taken by the UNW.

-- Laughter

He informs me that he is not going to let it grow back until the cuts are rescinded or until Mr. Todd takes him out for a night cap.

-- Laughter

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce a former co-worker and vice-president of the Union of Northern Workers, Josie Gould.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Roland.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 416-13(4): Reductions To Wildlife Organizations

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday during committee of the whole I raised questions in the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. While going through that budget, I had come across information in respect to the wildlife committee and organizations and funding cuts. I would like to know with the motion put forward by Mr. Steen and passed by the committee of the whole, if the Minister would look at this area and reconsider some of the reductions that are happening to wildlife organizations. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 416-13(4): Reductions To Wildlife Organizations

**MR. KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I want to ensure the Members of the Legislature that motions that are made are taken very seriously. The motion recommends re-instating funding to

Page 963

wildlife committees at the community level to the levels they were at in previous years. As all motions made by the Legislature, they will be taken to be considered collectively with the Minister of Finance. We will be responding once we have had time to review these and see if there is any way possible to respond positively to them. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 416-13(4): Reductions To Wildlife Organizations

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is encouraging to hear that it will be taken seriously. I believe those organizations in the community benefit the people who need it the most, who are trying to be productive and help put

food on their tables. I had raised a question yesterday in committee of the whole. If the Minister has the information available today with him. I know from my experience on the Inuit Hunters and Trappers Committee, there was a contribution agreement signed for five years. Is that agreement still in place?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 416-13(4): Reductions To Wildlife Organizations

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I got home about 10 o'clock last night, but I do want to assure the Member I am taking this motion seriously. I actually took it home with me. Once there is some time to look at it with my colleagues and my department, I will be doing that. The specific information required, such as the contribution agreements made at the community level, will be reviewed as well. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 417-13(4): Accusations Made Regarding Traditional Knowledge

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of RWED. It is in relation to my opening statement regarding comments made by an individual on CBC North last night in relation to traditional knowledge and also the effects those comments may have had on how other aboriginal people and communities have taken it. Are those comments endorsed by this government? This government is presently in the process of self-government talks with aboriginal organizations to bring them into the household of recognizing them through this government, through comments by the Premier, in regards to recognizing band councils and Metis locals and also Inuvialuit organizations. Are these comments in any way, shape or form being endorsed by this government?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Further Return To Question 417-13(4): Accusations Made Regarding Traditional Knowledge

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, there was an allegation made earlier in the year in a publication that this government was promoting religious beliefs through the imposition of this policy and that is categorically rejected by myself and the government. The policy says that any programs and services we deliver should recognize the spiritual values and beliefs that are held by the aboriginal people. We hold that to be a valid and legitimate position to advance. We do not ask anyone to take on a belief they do not hold, just to respect that people have values and spiritual beliefs that must be recognized and taken into account when we advance our own work and develop our own policies when we develop our own programs and services. That is the position we take. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 417-13(4): Accusations Made Regarding Traditional Knowledge

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there any way this government could possibly make a public statement in regards to those statements which may have offended any aboriginal organizations or aboriginal people?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 417-13(4): Accusations Made Regarding Traditional Knowledge

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, there is an individual that has taken liberty to have statements printed espousing their own views on the policy they allege we are imposing on them. I do not think there is any validity to the statements and I am not concerned myself to respond. I think there is both academic and scientific merit to giving recognition in respect to traditional knowledge. It is supported by scientists and academics alike that there is value in traditional knowledge and that respect must be given to those

and that the cultural context in which spiritual and cultural values are held must be taken into account when we deliver programs and services. That is the view we take. We reject any notion that values have no place in the scientific community. Even on environmental assessment programs, scientific evidence as well as the values of the people involved are requested and are demanded to be taken into account. This is the way that we operate at this time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 417-13(4): Accusations Made Regarding Traditional Knowledge

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will there be any reprimand for the individual for going public and making her views known and slandering an aboriginal view of a cultural group which consists of over 50 percent of our population. Will anything be done to reprimand that individual?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Page 964

Further Return To Question 417-13(4): Accusations Made Regarding Traditional Knowledge

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the views printed by the individual or individuals will be dealt with by the academic and scientific community in the appropriate manner and they will be, as you would say, dispatched in a very appropriate way. That will be done by their alleged colleagues. Whether or not that particular employee acted in an appropriate way is not one that I wish to comment on. I leave these types of management issues to the deputy minister of the department, who is responsible for dealing with employees according to our policies and practices. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 417-13(4): Accusations Made Regarding Traditional Knowledge

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the overall question about traditional knowledge and the exact cost of compiling that information versus scientific knowledge, I would like to ask the Minister if he would consider ensuring there is adequate funding and resources for traditional knowledge research to be compiled by aboriginal organizations or cultural organizations? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 417-13(4): Accusations Made Regarding Traditional Knowledge

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have contracted a consultant who is working with my office to provide me with some advice on how I can act in a way that is consistent with the position we have taken, which is that traditional knowledge is and should be an integral part of the way this government provides programs and services in a wide range of areas. I will be actively encouraging the development of an approach that will further enhance the use of traditional knowledge and the recognition of it by this government through the way we deal with employees with programs and services and the way that decisions are made by government right across the departments. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 418-13(4): Future Work In Nunavut Conference

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Deputy Premier. Following the meeting in Cambridge Bay, I understand there is a major conference being held in Iqaluit next week entitled: Future Work in Nunavut. It is my understanding that the Deputy Premier may be attending this conference. What involvement will the GNWT have in this conference? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Deputy Premier, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 418-13(4): Future Work In Nunavut Conference

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, it is true that I had made plans and I do have tickets to go to Iqaluit on Monday to attend this important conference. The Assembly still has to consider and approve the Housing Corporation budget which I must attend to. Depending on what happens in the next couple of days, I may very well have to stay here for consideration of the budget next week. However, the government has been intimately involved in the preparation of the conference. I understand we have contributed about \$100,000 towards it. The staff of Mr. Dent's department have been assisting wherever they can.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 418-13(4): Future Work In Nunavut Conference

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if it is not possible for the Deputy Premier to attend this important conference, would it be possible for another Minister to attend in his place? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 418-13(4): Future Work In Nunavut Conference

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I would have to check with the Premier. We do have a back-up plan that we are working on, in that much of the conference will be organized through up-links with satellites using video-conferencing. We are trying to make arrangements to attend through video-conferencing here in Yellowknife. That is the plan we are working on.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 419-13(4): Participation In Future of Work Conference

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on the same line of questioning as Mr. O'Brien on the Future of Work conference being held in Iqaluit. Because we have not finished our budget deliberations, I am not able to attend either, although I had indicated to the NIC that I would be attending. I would like to follow-up on the tele-conferencing and the video-conferencing. Can Mr. Dent inform this House if Members of this Assembly, like myself and other Members of the Nunavut Caucus who wanted to be at the meeting, will be able to participate through tele-conferencing and video up-links? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 419-13(4): Participation In Future of Work Conference

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that Mr. Arlooktoo indicated in his answer to Mr. O'Brien that he had been investigating the possibility of participating in the conference through a video link-up. I am

Page 965

advised at this time, we have not yet managed to confirm that a video link-up will be available. If it is, I can assure the Members they will be advised and given every opportunity to participate as that develops. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 419-13(4): Participation In Future of Work Conference

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the conference being held in Iqaluit on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of next week is subject around the future of work and that includes job-sharing and flexible time

and so on. What departmental officials from Mr. Dent's or from the government would be attending the conference in Iqaluit?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 419-13(4): Participation In Future of Work Conference

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will have the people who are involved in the college and adult educators in the region attending the conference. Mr. Mark Cleveland, the assistant deputy minister for Culture and Careers, had intended to attend the conference but yesterday received notification that the federal Department of Human Resources Development wished to continue some negotiations that we have ongoing with them and he will have to travel to Edmonton on Monday, so cannot attend. I do know that we see this as an important conference. The department has been, as Mr. Arlooktoo said, fairly extensively involved in the committee organizing the conference and I can say with some certainty that there will be a large presence from Education, Culture and Employment and the college at the conference next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 420-13(4): Monitoring Agreement With BHP

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister for RWED regarding the agreement signed with BHP. This is the biggest project to come down the pipe for the Northwest Territories for a long time and we have signed an agreement that covers a wide range of areas. Could the Minister indicate the kind of monitoring mechanism that we are going to have to keep a handle on the wide range of issues that have been addressed under that agreement? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 420-13(4): Monitoring Agreement With BHP

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of agreements that were signed, namely the environmental agreement and the socio-economic agreement. As far as the environmental agreement is concerned, there is a mechanism that is laid out in the agreement, namely the establishment and setting up of a monitoring agency. I understand the parties have been working to set that up and it is targeted to be set up by the 7th of April. The agreement and the stakeholders are working well. We are on target as far as that particular agreement is concerned. As far as the socio-economic agreement is concerned regarding contracts and employment commitments, the deputy minister for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is the person designated to be responsible for overseeing that the agreement and the commitments made in it are met. We have internal discussions right now on whether there is a more appropriate mechanism required to ensure there is compliance and that the commitments are met in a timely way and we have some effective way to monitor that. That is currently where we are. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 420-13(4): Monitoring Agreement With BHP

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate a possible timeframe regarding the monitoring of the socio-economic agreement and the possible new mechanism that might be put in place? I agree that the deputy minister is far too busy to be able to single-handedly, effectively monitor and some other alternate mechanism is going to be required. Could the Minister indicate a possible timeframe for that? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 420-13(4): Monitoring Agreement With BHP

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once the session is over and the officials within the respective departments



have some time to dedicate to other ongoing work in a timely way, I would be able to indicate to Members in the next couple of weeks what type of timeframe we have and whether we do require a specific mechanism within the government to ensure that we meet the commitments made within the socio-economic agreement in an effective way. For instance, the Department of Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment, as well as my department, are some of the departments that have responsibilities laid out in the socio-economic agreement. Right now, there is a working group that are detailing exactly what those commitments are, plus trying to establish exactly how we can meet those commitments. Having said that, it will be senior managers, deputy ministers, that will need to meet in order to advise myself as the lead Minister and the respective Ministers within the involved departments whether there is a better way to meet those commitments within the agreement; what better way might be recommended by them. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 420-13(4): Monitoring Agreement With BHP

Page 966

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This particular initiative has a possible 30-year life and there are other mega-projects and mining projects of a similar nature looming on the horizon. It is going to be critical as a government that we have a mechanism beyond one person to be able to monitor that something as significant as that has an influence on all areas. Would the Minister bring forward the plan when it is agreed to, so we could see the kind of structure that is going to be there to monitor the training, the economic benefits and the social impacts, given the magnitude of this project and the kind of fundamental planning that has to be done. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 420-13(4): Monitoring Agreement With BHP

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is true that these are incredibly significant achievements that we have made. Commitments that are made by this government, by other stakeholders, have the potential to bring significant benefits to the people of the north, to the businesses and the communities that we have up here. As a Minister and as a government, we have an obligation to ensure we look at every way possible to maximize the opportunities before us and to ensure that the commitments that are made by the stakeholders are lived up to. We have an obligation to make sure members of the public and Members of the Legislature have some measurable way, some way that is provided to them, that gives them the assurance that, as a government, we are doing everything we can to maximize the opportunities and to make sure the commitments made are lived up to in the full sense. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 421-13(4): Impact of Electronic Backbone

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government has boldly embraced the Internet. We have signed a multi-billion dollar contract to provide the backbone for the electronic highway in all territorial communities. I know the Internet is a very valuable source of information. It has changed many of the ways that we do business. I agree that it would be nice for every NWT community to have access to the net but, in our rush to be part of the technological revolution, I want to make sure we have thought of all the impacts. I have an area of concern that I want to raise today.

Mr. Speaker, my concern is the impact that this electronic backbone is going to have on existing service providers. As we try to provide services where there are none through this huge contract, I am not sure the government has thought about those who already provide this service in some communities. These business people have made significant investments to give people access to the electronic highway. Will they be able to compete with government-supported big business? In November, one of my colleagues asked about the impact of the digital communication network on the existing service providers in some of the communities. The Minister

was unable to give a clear indication of what was happening at that time. Can the Minister tell this House what arrangements have been made to ensure existing service providers are not negatively affected as a result of the GNWTs' contract for the electronic backbone? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 421-13(4): Impact of Electronic Backbone

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The question is taken as notice. The time being 12 o'clock, we will recess to 1:30.

-- Break

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I would like to call the House back to order. We are on item 6, oral questions and I have Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 422-13(4): Policy for Awarding Contracts

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I made a Member's statement regarding people with their own businesses in the communities. The NWT Housing Corporation is going to get people to construct and erect housing in the communities, when are they going to give out contracts or tenders to the public? I want to get clarification from the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation on what their policy is for awarding contracts. Thank you. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 422-13(4): Policy for Awarding Contracts

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, I answered a question yesterday when I was asked by a Member how these

policies or guidelines can be resolved. We are trying to get some information at this time to give to the Members. We are in support of private businesses that do contracts in the communities, for the small businesses to be able to try to get some contracts for construction of housing. Thank you. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 423-13(4): Division Negotiating Committee

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for division. Recently the government struck a committee to assist in the negotiations for the new financial arrangements regarding division. Can the Minister tell the House who is involved in this committee and if the committee has met to date? Thank you.

Page 967

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 423-13(4): Division Negotiating Committee

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My honourable colleague is correct. There is an arrangement being reached to bring all the associated parties to the table to move towards negotiating two new formula arrangements. I have just drafted a letter to all the parties in the north asking them to come to a meeting with the leadership and their officials, so we can discuss and take a look at where there might be common positions that we have and we hold, so we can move forward as one when the federal government calls the first meeting sometime in April. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 423-13(4): Division Negotiating Committee

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the two formulas are devised, will they come from the existing budget? If not, how will they be arrived at? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 423-13(4): Division Negotiating Committee

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

My apologies, Mr. Speaker. I did not have my hearing aid in and, as some Members have often said, I do occasionally have selective hearing and, in this case, I had selective hearing and did not hear the honourable colleague.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. O'Brien, your second supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 423-13(4): Division Negotiating Committee

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was regarding the two new formulas. Will they come from the existing budget? If not, how will they be derived? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 423-13(4): Division Negotiating Committee

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is an important question and while it has not yet been clearly defined what approach we will be taking with respect to the new financial arrangements, it would be my position that what we are looking at is two new formulas. We would have a starting position on those formulas by costing the status quo in the west because that is what we have had right now with provision for adjustments change as the constitution discussions unfold. We want to move quickly to cost the Footprints in the Snow Two decentralized model. We will then move forward through federal finance, seeking their support in finding the appropriate levels of funding that are required for both territories based upon the

costing that we intend to undertake in the next 60 to 90 days. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 423-13(4): Division Negotiating Committee

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, how will the critical issue of assets and liabilities be addressed and reallocated?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 423-13(4): Division Negotiating Committee

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of assets and liabilities is a serious one, but it gets more attention than it should. We have done two reports on assets and liabilities in which we have asked Members and other parties out there whether we are on the right track or not. We will be bringing forward our final report soon on the process for determining assets and liabilities east/west. It is my personal contention the assets and liabilities issue is not as large as it may appear to be in the eyes of some. Assets that are east and assets that are west are there. We have been fairly consistent in our position with respect to the WCB and NWT Power Corporation. At the end of day, if there are going to be any contentious issues, they may end up being much more minor than what we think. For example, the accumulated deficit. Who is going to get some of the artifacts? Who is going to get the wall hangings? I do not want to oversimplify it, but the concern that has been raised may be unfounded when we actually get down to really determining what the contentious issues are. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 423-13(4): Division Negotiating Committee

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Minister. I was not suggesting we take any pavement away from Fort Smith and put it in Arviat. I was more concerned about the timing of when we might find out exactly when this is going to be discussed and settled. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 423-13(4): Division Negotiating Committee

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

On the assets and liabilities issues, we are trying to move quickly to finalize the report. We will share that with our colleagues and our other partners in the process, both east and west. When we look at the asset and liability issue, if we take a hard look at the report we are providing, it will reassure people that it is not as contentious an issue as some would think it is. I am optimistic that will happen, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Page 968

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 424-13(4): Negotiated and Sole-Sourced Contracts

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance and it concerns the process of this government to put in place the disclosure motion of May 13th on the negotiated and sole-sourced contracts. Can the Minister update the House as the Minister of Finance, are we in the process of publishing these figures as the motion of May 13th past stated? Where are we with that right now? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 424-13(4): Negotiated and Sole-Sourced Contracts

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that my honourable colleague has an obsession with this issue and my understanding is we will be bringing forward exactly what he has requested in our next contractual report that we provide to this House on a regular basis. I hope it would bring an end to the discussion and will clearly demonstrate to the public at large this is an open and transparent government. It is clear to everybody what is publicly tendered, what is negotiated, whatever the other arrangement my colleagues make on behalf of the government with the private sector and industry. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 424-13(4): Negotiated and Sole-Sourced Contracts

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Contrary to what some editorials would have it, that the Nunavut Caucus is sitting in Mr. John Todd's lap and purring with contentment that we have the master's approval, I would like to continue with my questions on the sole-sourced and negotiated contracts. When will this be published? He said soon. When will it be available to the public and in what form? One of the previous questions to the Premier was that it may be available on-line, it also may be available on a disk form or might be available in a book. What form are we looking at?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 424-13(4): Negotiated and Sole-Sourced Contracts

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is your newspaper and your editor, not mine. That is the first thing. Second thing is that we will deliver this contractual information giving full details of what the contracts are, whether they are negotiated, whether they have gone to public tender, in due course. Probably in the next session in May or June. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 424-13(4): Negotiated and Sole-Sourced Contracts

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not own the newspaper either. I do not have shares. He said it will be available in March. That is fine. What format will it be available in? Will it be in a book form? Will it be on the Internet? Will it be e-mail? What will it be?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 424-13(4): Negotiated and Sole-Sourced Contracts

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It will probably come by carrier pigeon. Mr. Speaker, we will table it in a documented form as we have in the past and we add to it the requirements that Mr. Picco has so eloquently brought to this House's attention on numerous occasions. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 424-13(4): Negotiated and Sole-Sourced Contracts

**MR. PICCO:**

I am very pleased to see that and I congratulate my colleague and the carrier pigeons for making this possible. My final supplementary question to the Minister is, in the format that it is coming out, will it also disclose the policies of this government? When I receive the package and it states what is negotiated and what is sole-sourced, will attached to that be the policies which guarantee sole-sourced and negotiated contracts and which policies they follow for that, so people will be able to understand why certain contracts are negotiated and certain contracts are sole-sourced? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 424-13(4): Negotiated and Sole-Sourced Contracts

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

We will provide this House and our colleagues with the details of the contracts this governments lets, whether these contracts are negotiated, whether they are publicly tendered, whether they are sole-sourced, et cetera, as requested by my colleague and other colleagues, rightly so, on a regular basis in this House. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Ootes.

Question 425-13(4): Liability Under Negotiated Contracts

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question would be to the Minister of Public Works. In the case of negotiated contracts, if the company that is awarded the negotiated contract does not pay the sub-contractors, could the Minister tell me who would be liable for this, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Public Works, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 425-13(4): Liability Under Negotiated Contracts

Page 969

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, that would depend on the particular case. What we do before final payment is made, is ensure there is a certain percentage holdback the government does not give to the contractor until we are sure that all sub-contractors are paid and all other expenses, such as Revenue Canada expenses, are paid before we release the holdback.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 425-13(4): Liability Under Negotiated Contracts

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I can be a little more specific for the Minister. There was a contractor

in the Delta area and, unfortunately, they either had no money left or they went bankrupt or insolvent. Some of the sub-contractors were left without being paid. I understand from what the Minister is saying that the government does hold back funds to cover this particular area. Could the Minister tell us what percentage of the funds are held back?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 425-13(4): Liability Under Negotiated Contracts

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, it is in the area of ten percent. I took the actual amount, but it is in that range.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 425-13(4): Liability Under Negotiated Contracts

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What would be the procedure for a company that may have been affected in this way? Could that particular company contact the Department of Public Works and request that the department look into this and provide the remaining funds to those who may have lien potential? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 425-13(4): Liability Under Negotiated Contracts

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, what I can do is ask the department to look into that particular file. The department, when it acts as an agency administering contracts for other departments, ensures or tries to ensure there is enough funding available to cover all expenses. I am aware that in some cases, for various reasons outside the particular contract, there may be disputes or other financial difficulties that a company may have. There are sometimes other reasons why these things occur,

but I can take a look at that particular case and try to advise on getting it solved.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 426-13(4): Application of Nunavut Final Agreement to Inuvialuit Areas

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a copy of an extract of a document of the NWT Housing Construction Association, in which they show the government's tenders. This particular document shows Holman Island air terminal building tendered by DPW. On the bottom it says, "For the purpose of this tender, provisions of the Nunavut Planning Agreement apply."

Mr. Speaker, I thought everybody was quite clear that Holman Island is an Inuvialuit area and the Nunavut Final Agreement should not apply. I would like to ask the Minister of DPW if he can correct this?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 426-13(4): Application of Nunavut Final Agreement to Inuvialuit Areas

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, it sounds to me like a typographical error was made when the document was produced. Whoever put it together may have made the mistake of assuming that Holman Island was in the Nunavut Settlement Lands. I will check into it. It is obviously a mistake.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 427-13(4): Incremental Costs Associated With Division

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance responsible for division planning. This morning I made the point that it is imperative that we move ahead to look at an administrative split at the headquarters level and start moving the resources

to the east to give them a headquarters' infrastructure. Could the Minister clarify for me that in fact, when this is done, it will be done based on the current structure of government that we have here and not on what may be developed in the east, if the Minister of Finance for the federal government is going to be kind and generous and give a big bag full of new money for incremental costs. Are we going to be looking at an equitable split based on the current structure of headquarters in Yellowknife? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 427-13(4): Incremental Costs Associated With Division

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I appreciate my colleague's question and concern, I think it is somewhat premature at this time for me to be too definitive. As I indicated the other day, I am not trying to avoid the question. I have sent out a letter asking Ministers and deputy ministers to prepare what I call a pre-implementation of division plan, both east and west. Of course, that has not been approved by Cabinet. We are just in the preliminary stages of discussing how we would go about this exercise and how, in fact, we would move towards putting some basic division organization

Page 970

in place for the east in preparation for April 1, 1999. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 427-13(4): Incremental Costs Associated With Division

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me make the point from a slightly different angle. In headquarters, we can identify every position that is tied into headquarters as part of the headquarters operation. It is a finite number that can be counted. You can touch them, you can feel them. When we look at setting up an administrative arrangement with Nunavut so that they can have some headquarters functions, will it be done

based on the resources that are currently here, as opposed to the dream in Footprints 2 that may become a reality only if there is a considerable new influx of capital from the federal government? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 427-13(4): Incremental Costs Associated With Division

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it would be fair to say that this Cabinet and, of course, in my portfolio as Finance Minister, I could only deal with the current funds that we have in this government. I believe that is how we would approach it. I did indicate, I believe earlier this week, that I am hoping in our early discussions with Mr. Martin's office and the Department of Finance, there will clearly be a recognition that there are going to be some costs required prior to 1999, if we are going to get the basic infrastructure in place, east and west. That is just a reality. You cannot say on March 31st, 1999, we are going to switch off the lights and turn them back on April 1. We will work within the fiscal arrangements we currently have. At the same time, I am hoping as part of our fiscal discussions with federal finance, they will recognize the fact that we will have to move prior to 1999 and there will be some costs associated with that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 427-13(4): Incremental Costs Associated With Division

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate, as we charge down this path ahead of us, the timeframe in terms of being able to delineate quite clearly the number of employees and possible location of these employees so that issue, which is now a source of great concern and apprehension, can be resolved as quickly as possible and people are not left twisting in the wind? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 427-13(4): Incremental Costs Associated With Division

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

As we charge onward to division, as my honourable colleague has said, it is certainly my hope and Cabinet's hope, that we can bring some clarity to this whole issue and some timelines attached to the clarity. I think that is really what we are saying here. As I said, we are embarking on this exercise right now of trying to determine an appropriate transition strategy. Whatever our strategy is, I want it to complement the decentralized model. Although we cannot do it or cost it, there has to be preparation for it. I am optimistic that we can bring that proposal to the Members who are going to help us with this in the next 60 to 90 days. In the meantime, I want to discuss the strategy that we have to get to this stage with the Ordinary Members by the middle of next week. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 427-13(4): Incremental Costs Associated With Division

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the areas where this Assembly and this government have not been as successful as it could have been, is in the whole area of its communication strategy. Keeping people and staff, and even Members I suppose, up-to-date on the various initiatives that we have as a government. Selling the things we have done, then people know where we are going. This critical initiative is going to require special attention. Thank you. Two conversations at once. That is very good, Mr. Minister.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Have you asked your question yet, Mr. Miltenberger? Ask your question.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister was engaged in such a spirited side conversation that I was not sure I had his undivided attention. The question to the

Minister is, will he in fact commit to having a well thought-out, practical communications strategy that is going to be critical for this particular issue on this campaign towards division?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 427-13(4): Incremental Costs Associated With Division

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to assure my honourable colleague I am capable of doing two things at once. As a matter of fact, I juggle many things in this job that I have. I want to assure him that communications, particularly right now as there is an air of anxiety as he has frequently told me, are vital as we move forward on this road towards division. I want to assure him that I will seek his counsel, as I will seek others, in developing an appropriate communications strategy on this important issue of division. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. At this point, I would like to recognize some people in the gallery from Hay River. There is a gentleman who is on the town council by the name of Robert Bouchard. There is also Jeff Griffiths of the South Slave Business Development Corporation. There are also some students that are here to look at the BHP job opportunities and

Page 971

they are in the gallery right now, very interested and very enthusiastic about becoming perhaps future leaders. Their names are Heather Hamilton, Harry Smith, Gloria Hopkins, Nadia Readman and Jason Zebedee. Welcome to the Assembly.

-- Applause

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 428-13(4): Update on Northern Accord Negotiations

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, during the review of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, I asked a question of the



Minister regarding the northern accord. The Minister stated that questions regarding that would have to be answered by the Premier. So, my question would be for the Premier. I wonder if he could give me an update as to what is transpiring with regard to the northern accord negotiations? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 428-13(4): Update on Northern Accord Negotiations

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple of weeks ago, myself and the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs met with the Aboriginal Summit. We raised the issue of the northern accord. Some time ago, in early fall - late summer, I sent out a framework agreement to the aboriginal organizations to take a look at. The majority of the aboriginal organizations at that time did not agree with that framework agreement so they asked us to redo it. We are doing that. I told the Aboriginal Summit I am willing to do that and try to develop a document that will be more acceptable to them. Our staff is presently working on that and we will make another proposal to them. I also made it very clear that I am not interested in spending a lot of money or time on an issue I cannot go anywhere on. I need commitments from them that we are going to proceed with a commitment-in-principle of doing that, taking control of northern resources and bringing it into the hands of northerners rather than the federal government or some bureaucrats in Ottawa making decisions on what happens in the north. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 428-13(4): Update on Northern Accord Negotiations

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Premier tell us if he has a possible timeframe for completing this negotiation process with the aboriginal groups to try and bring some completion to this project? Could he enlighten us as to the timeframe on it? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 428-13(4): Update on Northern Accord Negotiations

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as the timeframe goes on completion of the northern accord negotiations, at this time I would not like to put a timeframe on it. I know that, unless we proceed fairly swiftly on this issue, unless we agree as northerners on the general principles of bringing northern resource control into the hands of northerners, we will not be able to do it in the life of this Assembly. We also have a federal government election looming that will affect the timing of this issue. I do not know whether it is going to be a spring election or a fall election. That all reflects on the timing. I would be better able to answer that question with more certainty by June, this spring session. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 428-13(4): Update on Northern Accord Negotiations

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The budget yesterday indicated that \$140,000 will be allocated for aboriginal groups so they can participate in this process. Last year, a hundred thousand dollars was also provided. I wonder if the Minister or Premier could clarify for me because there was some confusion yesterday whether it was going to aboriginal groups or whether it was for consulting work. Could the Premier or Minister enlighten me as to whether that was for aboriginal groups or whether it was for consulting work?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 428-13(4): Update on Northern Accord Negotiations

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the previous government's term of office, there was a lot of money spent on this whole issue of the northern accord. This time I have kept expenditures quite low and I have no

problem at all sharing a detailed explanation of how that \$100,000 was spent with the Member. I will get that information for him by Monday. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 429-13(4): Monitoring and Implementing Policies

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems like I have run out of question period time. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier and it concerns the policies of this government, as I have been asking about the last couple of weeks. Policies, privatization, BIP, and affirmative action, because policies are not legislated. For example, education under the Education Act, the same checks or balances the policies are not the same as they are for legislation. My question to the Premier is, what types of checks and balances are there to make sure that the policies that are in place are actually followed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Page 972

Return To Question 429-13(4): Monitoring and Implementing Policies

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any time there is a Cabinet decision made or Cabinet direction made, we have the central agencies ensure all policies that are on the books are adhered to and followed and we do that as a government. As far as checks and balances, that is what we pay the money to the deputies for, to ensure the policies of this government are being implemented and implemented in the right way. That is the reason you are being paid as an MLA, Mr. Picco, to ensure that we follow the policies of this government, the same as I am being paid as a Premier to make sure that Ministers and myself follow the policies of this government. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Question period is over. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports

of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 13: TABELING OF DOCUMENTS

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Krutko, the other day, tabled a petition on clarification of the Government of the Northwest Territories traditional knowledge policy. Today, I would like to table a document that was with that petition, Tabled Document No. 61-13(4). It is a letter regarding the current traditional knowledge controversy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a letter from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business to Mr. Todd on the budget of '97/98, Tabled Document No. 62-13(4). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 13, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 1997

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March the 5th, I will move that Bill 13, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 1997, be read for the first time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 2, 8, 9 and 10 and Committee Report 2, 3, 4 and 6, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

I would like to call committee of the whole to order. We have a number of items before us on the agenda today. I would like to know what is the direction of the committee? Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. That we proceed with Bill 8, Committee Report 2, 3, 4 and 6 concurrently and review the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Is everyone agreed to that?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

I have a short statement I would like to read before we proceed with Municipal and Community Affairs. I would like to inform the committee that I have been advised that there is a typographical error on page 4-25, the main estimates, of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. The error on this page was the reference to the contribution for main street paving in Fort Smith, which should read Fort Simpson. For the record, the corrected page has been provided to each Member of this committee. Thank you. Does the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs have opening remarks?

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Yes, I do, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I am pleased to present the 1997/98 main estimates of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Madam Chair, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs works in partnership with municipal governments and communities. The department provides training, technical advice and support for a wide range of municipal programs and services. For 1997/98, combined operations and maintenance and capital estimates of \$99,970,000 are proposed for the department. This is a decrease of 8.1 percent from the combined 1996/98 main estimates. The department has a total of 162 positions. This represents an increase from the 152 positions in 1996/97, due to positions that were transferred from the Department of Safety and Public Services. Madam Chair, for 1997/98, the department is

proposing capital main estimates of \$24,962,000. This represents a deduction of 29.5 percent from the 1996/97 main estimates. Sixty-six percent of the department's 1997/98 capital estimates, \$16.5 million, will go towards the construction of a new community infrastructure and water and sanitation facilities. About 20 percent, or \$5 million, is planned to build arenas, community halls and gymnasiums. These facilities are important for active living and healthy lifestyles for community residents. A further 14 percent, or \$3.4 million, is identified for land development in road construction.

The department has transferred the responsibility and control for capital land development projects in Nunavut over to the communities. Through amendments to municipal legislation currently before this House, communities will be able to borrow funds to finance land development projects. Madam Chair, the department is proposing operation and maintenance main estimates of \$25,800,000 for 1997/98. Over 75 percent of this budget is transferred to community governments or other organizations through grants and contributions. As the late

Page 973

department for community empowerment, MACA has continued to build on its partnership with communities and other departments to increase local authority and control over programs and services. The department has taken the approach that community empowerment must be community driven if it is to succeed. Community empowerment is not about dumping government programs on communities. Communities are all at different stages of capacity and development and the pace of community empowerment must reflect and respect both the community's ability and interest to take on new responsibilities. The department's 1997/98 main estimates reflects its commitment to community development. \$3,000,700 has been identified to support the community empowerment initiative. Two-thirds of this allocation will be provided directly to communities through grants and contributions. The remainder will be used by the department to increase support training and monitoring and to continue to develop and improve the initiative.

This year, the department hired nine regional community empowerment co-ordinators to work with communities and to lead this initiative in the regions. These co-ordinators are working with regional interdepartmental teams to ensure a co-ordinated approach to community development by all GNWT

departments. The department has provided training and orientation to each of these teams in the areas of community assessments, community-based planning, training and development, infrastructure transfer and other related areas. Regional staff in all departments need development and training themselves if they are to work effectively with communities. The community empowerment co-ordinators have visited communities in their regions to provide community councils with a new overview of the community empowerment process. Some communities have just begun the planning process. Others are already negotiating transfers of specific programs or assets and still others are busy with other priorities.

Through community assessment and community-based planning, training and development needs will be identified and plans will be developed. These plans will focus on building capacity, developing skills in local people so they can successfully assume greater levels of responsibility. Training is a key activity for the department. Many different training programs are co-ordinated and are delivered in partnership with other organizations. In response to recommendations from this House, MACA is also improving its monitoring and evaluation function capacity. As part of the reorganization of the department, a separate division will be established to focus specifically on assessment and monitoring. Communities are facing a great deal of change. There is some confusion about these changes and what they mean to the average person living in the community. We are all facing the challenges of preparing for division and new governments in Nunavut and the west in just 25 months. These issues also impact on community governments. The relationship between community governments and the territorial government is established in legislation that is currently under review. The ways communities are funded by our government is also under review. MACA is leading these two reviews which will modernize and improve the legal legislative and financial relationship between the territorial and municipal governments. These initiatives are being developed in partnership with the NWT Association of Municipalities, the Association of Municipal Administrators and other stakeholders including other GNWT departments.

Planning for change in partnership with communities is the key and, in my view, the only way to improving municipal government in the Northwest Territories. Local governments have very real day to day issues that need to be addressed so that services to people can improve. It is our job to make sure the system

changes so these improvements can occur. Sometimes that means accepting the status quo no longer works. In the current fiscal environment, the way we used to plan and deliver programs in government does not work as well as it did before. We need to find a better way to distribute scarce resources fairly. The municipal financing review will address these issues and I look forward to Members' input and recommendations. In 1997/98, as a result of these reviews, I expect to introduce legislation that will provide a strong foundation for community governments in the east and in the west. That is our goal.

Before closing, I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Infrastructure for the constructive comments and recommendations we have received from them in our meetings and through their reports. MACA simply does not have the resources to meet all the needs and requests of communities, Madam Chair. However, I believe my staff in the regions and at the headquarters are listening and responding to community concerns as best they can. I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication to the communities they serve. Madam Chair, that concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to respond to any questions the Members may have.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. The Infrastructure Committee which oversees and reviews the main estimates of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs would like to give their report. On behalf of the Infrastructure Committee, Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the deputy chairman, Mr. Henry, I will read the Municipal and Community Affairs comments from the committee. Community empowerment record seems to offer the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs a business plan for community empowerment. Everything the department was planning for 1997/98 revolves around community empowerment. Having received more information about community empowerment and having had the opportunity to debate it in the House, committee Members are more supportive about implementing the initiative. While no one disagrees that community empowerment as a principle is worth promoting, there has been much debate about the details of implementation. Many of the concerns expressed relate to off-loading our programs being transferred to communities ready to

dump them from the government books. Will the programs be more efficient and effective at the community level or is this merely an excuse to cut government spending?

These are legitimate fears reinforced by such things as the department's plan to cut more than five percent from existing municipal operations and maintenance funding this year.

Page 974

Committee Members do find it ironic that it is only now, in a time of fiscal restraint, that we are changing from a highly centralized government to one where more power is at the community level. Would such an initiative have been implemented in a time of plenty? The standing committee wants to be sure that community empowerment is being implemented because it is good for northerners, not just because it is a way to off-load responsibilities and programs as a way to save money. On the other hand, committee Members did note with approval the efforts of the department to ensure that communities are adequately prepared for community empowerment. The redirection of almost \$3 million in capital funds, the O and M funding for training and related initiatives, are the most significant changes related to this area. As well, the department has changed its organizational structure to meet the changing demands resulting from community empowerment and to incorporate business, lottery and real estate licenses and prior safety programs from the now dismantled Department of Safety and Public Services, as well as to effect some savings.

The standing committee encourages the department to ensure there is no conflict between the requirement of the Fire Marshal to strictly enforce building fire codes and those parts of the department responsible for building and maintaining structures in municipalities. The department is reducing O and M funding to communities with five percent cuts to municipal block funding, the Municipal Operating Assistance program and the Settlement Operating Assistance program. Committee Members were concerned at the inequity in these cuts. Municipal Operating Assistance Program and the Settlement Operating Assistance formulae makes allowance for population growth and other factors, but this is not the case from block funding to larger tax based municipalities. The standing committee feels it would have been fair to incorporate similar growth factors into block funding before making the five percent cuts.

Committee Members have other concerns related to these cuts. First, the standing committee is disappointed that the government so often resorts to such across the board cuts, blindly slashing an arbitrary amount of percentage. Members are very concerned and feel that this type of action will lead to increased inefficiency, as more and more work will be required of fewer and fewer staff. Committee Members would prefer to see government place people before programs. In a sense, the committee would like to see government programs examined and ineffective or inefficient ones abandoned. Members are also concerned that these across the board cuts were proposed without adequate analysis of the possible ripple effects of the cuts. For example, when the water and sewage subsidy program was capped last year, the effect varied widely among communities. Some communities saw little or no change in their water and sewer rates, while others saw 30 percent increases. These sorts of effects should be better anticipated and communicated to those affected. The department should ensure that cuts such as these will not result in increased spending by the government in other areas. I now ask my honourable colleague, Mr. Barnabas, to carry on the report.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Barnabas.

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Under seniors and disabled property tax rebate, following the elimination of the homeowners' property tax rebate last year, the standing committee took a closer look at the continuing programs to provide property tax rebates to seniors and disabled northerners. The Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act authorizes tax based communities to exempt property from up to 50 percent of taxes where the property owner or owners meets the criteria under the Act, 65 years or over or disabled according to definitions in the Act. Committee Members are concerned that some homeowners are being deemed ineligible for this rebate. For example, if a house is owned by a married couple and only one partner meets the criteria for the rebate, the couple where one partner is over 65 years old and the other is not quite 65, they are not eligible for any rebate at all in the tax-based municipalities. The standing committee agrees that this was not fair. That it would be more appropriate to provide a rebate where anyone of the co-owners meets the criteria. The Act already gives

the Minister discretion to exempt property in the general taxation where only one co-owner meets the criteria. If this is not acceptable to the Minister, committee Members suggest that other reasonable short term solutions should be prorated the rebate, in proportion to the number of co-owners who meet the criteria. In the example above, there are two co-owners meeting the criteria and 50 percent rebate could be provided. The extra cost for extending the rebates to properties where some but not all co-owners of the property meet the criteria, would likely be small compared to existing \$155,000 annual cost of the program. In the long run, this program should be reviewed in conjunction with the other subsidy and assistance programs available to seniors and disabled northerners, most of which are administered by departments in the social envelope.

In the preliminary response to their recommendations, the Minister committed to work with the Department of Justice and have necessary amendments brought before the House by the end of the 1997/98 fiscal year. Members are encouraged by this action, but question why it will take so long to bring forward such amendments. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Is the committee agreed that if the Minister would like to bring witnesses, we could do so at this time?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Would the Minister like to bring in witnesses?

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Yes, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. I will then ask the Sergeant-at-Arms if he would bring in the witnesses? Thank you. Minister Thompson, please introduce your witnesses for the record.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. To my left is my deputy minister, Penny Ballantyne, and to my right is Vern Christensen, my ADM for MACA. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Minister Thompson. At this time we will proceed to general comments. If I could just remind the Members that we would like to stick to comments. Your time will be limited to 10 minutes. If you do have specific questions, hold those until we come to the line item they refer to. General comments. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I am pleased to be able to make some specific comments on the community empowerment initiative of this department. The last several days the Minister has made statements in the House about the community empowerment process and its success. On the first day, it was first entitled Community Development Approach to Empowerment, then Progress on the Community Empowerment Initiative, culminating on the third day with Community Empowerment Successes. It is excellent that we are getting that information, Madam Chair. It is helpful, but I hope that the Minister also keeps in mind that it is the communities that need really good information and communication to be passed on to them.

There are a couple of items I would like to make reference to in the documents that the Minister commented and made statements on. In the document entitled Community Empowerment Success, she stated that, "these are only a few of the community empowerment successes." I personally think that is a judgment call as to whether they are successes yet. Yes, the transfers have taken place, but I do not think we should call them successful operational programs just because transfers have taken place. I get concerned about public statements and implications that there is all sorts of successes with this program.

In the second document, Progress on Community Empowerment Initiative, the Minister stated that, "other outstanding issues include financing, community empowerment, liability and labour relations." Then it continues, "work is progressing and being prepared for Cabinet's review on these areas." My concern is that, for example, in the Keewatin area, airports have been transferred and communities have taken on that responsibility, but I want to remind the Minister that Cabinet has not yet stated out and cleared the issue of financing, the liability and labour relations matters. I trust the communities themselves understand and I hope the department is advising the

communities of these particular outstanding areas and how that leaves the communities in terms of their responsibility and liability. I have spoken before on this whole issue of community empowerment and I want to state again, categorically, I think it is a wonderful program, a wonderful idea, and I do compliment the Minister for the work that has been done to-date. I keep coming back, though, to the whole area of rush. I want to watch that this is not shoved down the throats or down through PR gestures, that the public is not persuaded and convinced through all sorts of communications that this is a great idea. We have to make communities understand and let them come from the grass roots and take on this responsibility. To me, that is very important. We could have failures in this. That is not what I want. That is not what anyone in this House wants. We want successes. The successes can be achieved, but we want to do it methodically and with care and great consideration. If we can put ourselves into the position of a community leader and anticipate what is it that they need? What is it that they require? Where are the liabilities and the concerns going to lie for those community people? If we take it from that perspective then this whole program can be a successful one. Thank you, Madam Chair.

-- Applause

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. General comments. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I wanted to make some general comments in the area of community empowerment. I am pleased to see the department is putting such an emphasis on training community people. The pace of community empowerment must reflect and respect both the community's ability and interest to take on new responsibilities. This indicates to me that the Minister and her department have taken a serious look and listened to the concerns of the Ordinary Members. We have been saying, repeatedly, things should not progress faster than what the communities themselves and the people in the communities can handle. This certainly shows that the Minister is listening and I appreciate that. I see that they will be putting \$1.2 million towards increasing support, training and monitoring so they can develop and continue to develop and improve the initiative. This is a really good move.

Training and development needs will be identified and plans will be developed to build the capacity and develop the skills of local people so they can successfully assume greater levels of responsibility. This is the key, Madam Chair, and I commend the Minister for her endeavours in this area. From what I have seen, it looks as though the department will be getting a few more policy analysts. We now have an ADM in place and hopefully these policy analysts will be northern people who will know the region, will know the people and will lend their expertise to that of the ADM and continue this initiative. I like the way things are going right now. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Any further general comments? Mr. Evaloarjuk.

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Chair. I wanted to make a few comments and would like to make a comment that I appreciate the work that has been done. They have the most Inuit employees and the services that they give and they do not expect certain criteria to be employed by the department. For example, the managers or foremen, even though they do not have a high education, they become managers or foremen and this is a good idea. I like the idea that they have on-the-job training and apprenticeships. I know this department has a good program where they have apprenticeship and on-the-job training because it could help employees. The community empowerment initiative, on this subject I wanted to make a comment about offices. There are contracts that are given according to the regulations. At this time there are three offices that fall under the hamlet offices where these employees work, including the Department of Health and Social Services. They have a certain office area in one area and then there is the Inullariit Society where some of the employees work, also in the hamlet offices. I do not mind the arrangements as they are presently, but they are going to need proper office spaces in the future and we have to really

Page 976

consider that in the planning process. That is all I wanted to say. Thank you. (Translation ends)

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Evaloarjuk. Any further general comments? If not, does the committee agree we will move on to line-by-line?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Committee has agreed. I will direct your attention to page 4-14, Municipal and Community Affairs, directorate, operations and maintenance, total operation and maintenance, \$7,258,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I wonder if the Minister could advise us, Madam Chair, of the number of positions in the department that are working on community empowerment?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. There are nine people working in the regions and at headquarters, 15 staff members. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

The headquarters positions are those dedicated to community planning people or what areas have they been working in?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I am going to ask my deputy minister to answer that.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Mrs. Ballantyne.

**MRS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the 15 positions the Minister just alluded to are people who are working full-time on community empowerment or community development. They include people who are involved in the co-ordination of training programs. They include community planners. They include people who are involved in community assessments. They also include people who are involved in monitoring and evaluating of community governments. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mrs. Ballantyne. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I wonder if I could get a clarification of the kind of experience that may be within this division by these individuals?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mrs. Ballantyne.

**MRS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the experience of the individuals that currently occupy the positions range from the professional community planning expertise the Member first alluded to, to people who have significant regional experience delivering these Municipal Affairs programs in the communities. Without going into detail on the individuals, I can provide an assurance to the Member that the position descriptions for these positions do emphasize a combination of community development expertise and hands-on experience. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mrs. Ballantyne. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Do we have anyone in the department that has a certificate in Municipal Administration?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Mrs. Ballantyne.



**MRS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I confess that I am not intimately familiar with the resumes of every MACA employee, but I do know that we have at least two people in headquarters who have either Masters of Public Administration or who have served as municipal administrators in the Northwest Territories or elsewhere. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mrs. Ballantyne. Final question, Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

I will leave that for the moment, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Could the Minister elaborate briefly on RICE teams, which I think means regionally integrated community empowerment teams. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. RICE teams are co-ordinated by our MACA person in each region. It is the regional superintendents that get together and co-ordinate community empowerment within that region. They are just different government employees at the senior level talking with each other and co-ordinating community empowerment for that region, so they know what is going on within that region. That is what RICE teams are. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Could the Minister indicate what other departments work on these teams that MACA plays the lead role in?

Page 977

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mrs. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. It is all the departments that have programs in the communities. It is just about every department that does something within a community that gets together for these meetings. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. On a slightly different, but peripherally related issue, the regional directors are now an extinct species and there has been a concern there is a vacuum at the regional level. The assumption by many of us was that the logical department or possibly the lead superintendent, which may be similar to these RICE teams but with a broader scope, would be MACA. Is that in any way formalized at all? It is my concern that there is a vacuum in the South Slave. I know you have just staffed the superintendent's position. Is MACA taking a formal lead role?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I know that Mr. Gilmour from the Executive has been travelling to the communities and talking to these regional superintendents. What happens in the RICE team committees is that MACA co-ordinates the meetings and co-ordinates the agenda for the superintendents and then the chair rotates in the region when the superintendents get together. I think that question would be better answered by the Executive, Mr. Gilmour, because he has been going into the communities and working with these superintendents. The superintendents in the regions alternate the chair. We do the facilitating of the meetings. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. The community empowerment initiative is probably one of the biggest initiatives this government is undertaking, other than political ones like division, that has the most potential to change the structure of government. Which is why I was posing the question about MACA as the lead department, and possibly the role of the superintendent of MACA as the lead superintendent, who could address issues that may cross boundaries of departments and bring focus and would be, most importantly to me, seen as the head civil servant in the region people could go to in the communities. Without the regional director, people are now back to the old way of having to go door-to-door trying to find out who is on first and which department should be dealing with this. Does the Minister see that as a possible function for her department at the regional level? It is certainly needed. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. The MACA superintendents in the regions are taking a lead role in community empowerment. We are expecting them to do that, to communicate with other departments when they deal with community empowerment with the communities. For the RICE teams, the superintendents get together so they always know what is going on and they are working as a team for community empowerment to happen within that region. We expect the MACA superintendent to be the main co-ordinator of community empowerment for those regions. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Directorate, total operations and maintenance, \$7,258,000. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is regarding the communities of Detah and Ndilo and I am assuming this is the proper place to ask because it affects both capital and O and M, the way they are treated. The communities of Detah and Ndilo are one community in that they are governed by the

Yellowknife Dene First Nation's chief and band council. They are trying to amalgamate the two communities into one. At the present time, they receive O and M dollars for the community of Detah, but they do not receive any for Ndilo. They have to apply piece-meal, for instance, for dollars for new roads in Ndilo and they do not have money to clean the roads in Ndilo. They are not getting dollars for recreation and this is partially because Ndilo is within Yellowknife city limits. Similarly, Ndilo used to be in the capital plan and today, if you look in here a little further on, they are not in there. At what stage is the plan to amalgamate Detah and Ndilo into one community? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I am aware of the Member's concern because I have met with the chiefs of those two communities and I know the department has been working on this for some time and we are sensitive to the Member's concern. I am going to ask my deputy minister to update the Member on his issue. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mrs. Ballantyne.

**MRS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, over the past couple of months, Mr. Al Menard, at the request of the community, has been involved in trying to facilitate discussions between the City of Yellowknife and the communities of Detah and Ndilo, with a view to try to work out some of the overlap issues that occur that the Member just described. I do not have an update with me today, but we could certainly provide one to the Member very quickly. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mrs. Ballantyne. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. One of the problems happening right now is that it appears as though

some money for Ndilo may be going to the City of Yellowknife, although it may not be. The people living in Ndilo may be floating around out there and no one is actually getting money for them to provide recreation and that type of thing. This is creating a hardship. The formal amalgamation will take quite some time to occur. Some departments treat Ndilo as a separate entity from Yellowknife. Could this department begin to treat Ndilo as separate from Yellowknife even though they have not formally accomplished their objective of amalgamating into one community? Can this department begin treating them as one community? If not as one community, then at least Ndilo as a separate community from Yellowknife. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. We have Al Menard talking with the City of Yellowknife on this issue. We are willing to sit down with the community and work with them on this issue. We will have to update the Member on what has been happening with the talks between Yellowknife and our staff member. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate that Mr. Menard is working with the band council and with the city council in trying to work something out. This process could take a long time. If it is possible for the department to treat Ndilo as a separate entity from Yellowknife, prior to the formal amalgamation that will occur at some point in the future? Who knows, this may take five or ten years. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I am going to let my deputy minister answer that because she is more aware of that situation. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you. Mrs. Ballantyne.

**MRS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, can we fund Ndilo separately or will we do that? Today we cannot say with certainty. I am aware the block funding arrangement we have with the City of Yellowknife includes the population of Ndilo which, as the Member pointed out, technically sits within the city limits. There would have to be discussions with the City and with the community to look at how we might extract some portion of the funding, or if that is even a viable thing to do. Certainly the residents of Ndilo and Detah have access to City of Yellowknife facilities and utilize them. That would be expected to continue. I do not know whether we can do this. We certainly are willing to talk to the community about it further and see what we can do to try to get a shorter term solution to the problem he has described here. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mrs. Ballantyne. Question No. Five, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Regarding the population being included in the block funding for Yellowknife, my assistant has spoken to the person who put together the block funding arrangement. She has informed me that Ndilo was not included. There were no dollars included for Ndilo in the block funding. Also, although the Ndilo residents have access to the City of Yellowknife's recreational facilities, not many people actually take advantage of those facilities for the simple fact that they cannot afford to. The residents of Fort Rae also have access to those facilities, as do the residents of Ingraham Trail. It is very difficult for me to accept that they are getting much more access to those facilities than the people from Rae or the Ingraham Trail. I would hope that we could come to some solution, so we do not have to wait until the amalgamation is legally formalized before Ndilo can start getting its own funding. If they are included in the City of Yellowknife's block funding, then it should be a simple matter of cutting them out and reducing the City's block funding by whatever amount the community of Ndilo would normally get if it was another community the same size, say it was sitting in Fort Franklin's area or whatever. I do not expect a reply, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Any comment from the Minister with respect to Mr. Erasmus' comments?

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. In January, a letter went out stating that we had given the band \$15,000 to help them research the issues for discussion with the City. We have started the process with the band. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Next, I have Mr. Roland and Mr. Picco on the list. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. In your directorate, in the area of human resources, in the area of personnel that have been in communities working for the department for quite some time, is there a plan or a process in place that would allow employees to work up to a level of moving on to the next level in the cycle of their jobs? Is there a process in place that would allow for promotions within the system? Of course, your work habits would have to be good and so on, but is there a process in place? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mrs. Ballantyne.

**MRS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we certainly try to encourage our employees to advance and we encourage applying from within on vacancies. I have to say it is difficult because of the downsizing we have been going through, we have fewer positions available in the department and certainly far fewer senior positions than we had previously. There simply are not the number of positions there that used to be there for people to move into. In terms of career planning, that is something I can say we are not doing today, but it is in our plan for 1997/98 to improve in that area. We have restructured the department and we have brought in some expertise in human resources so that we can start doing

Page 979

good career planning with our staff and also just general employee development. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mrs. Ballantyne. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. There is something in the works to work on this area but, for the time being, there are still opportunities, somewhat limited with all the reductions we are facing, but there are still opportunities where long-term employees with good work experience and good work qualities can move up into positions that are available?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mrs. Ballantyne.

**MRS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you. Further questions, Mr. Roland? Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, under the directorate I noticed the emergency measures organization, which assists communities to develop their capability to respond to civil emergencies and co-ordinates GNWT involvement in emergency operations ERS is going to be lost at the airport in Iqaluit because of federal regulations having caused fiscal changes within the government. However, there still needs to be a capability of reacting to incidents at the airport under EMO. I asked the Minister earlier about the funding through EMO to help train our emergency volunteer fire department so if they need to do this, they would be able to respond to incidents at the airport. Also, the equipment at the airport needs to be upgraded at a cost of \$260,000. I wonder if the Minister has had any update on this matter, because I have had several phone calls and faxes and e-mails from my community. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. We are just preparing a reply. I had taken the question as notice two days ago. I am going to let Vern Christensen, my ADM, answer that. We are preparing a reply to his oral question. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Minister Thompson. Mr. Christensen.

**MR. CHRISTENSEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Our present training programs for fire fighters and our programs for the purchase of fire fighting equipment do not include training for response to crash fires at airports. The training is directed at the suppression of structural fires, not fires that might occur when aircraft fires occur at the airport operations. The department is reviewing the matter with the Department of Transportation and will be developing a more comprehensive response of approaches that should be taken to deal with those kinds of situations in communities like Iqaluit. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Christensen. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, under emergency measures, EMO helps communities develop the capability to respond to civil emergencies. It also co-ordinates the GNWT involvement in emergency operations. A crash at an airport, to me, would be a civil emergency and would mean GNWT would have to be involved. I would expect that EMO would be doing that. I understand the training is needed for our volunteers and the issue here, Madam Chair, is the liability. If our volunteer fire department goes to the airport to respond after March 31st and they do not have the ability or the training to take on an aircraft, there could be a liability if one of our volunteer fire fighters are injured at the site because he did not have the specialized training he needed. If the volunteer fire department responds and there is a problem, it could also be liable. Then that means the town is liable. It is a very serious concern. I understand the training available is at Duluth, Minnesota, because when I brought this up before after the CF-18 crash this past summer, we had to send some of our people for training in Duluth. If, after they have been studying this in Duluth, Minnesota or a similar place, is that what the Minister and the department is telling me, they need to do specialized training outside the territories? Is there a possibility of bringing someone to deliver the specialized training in the territories? Is that part of the delay because I have not seen the response?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. The EMO staff is preparing a response to the Member's statement and also questions and as soon as I get their recommendations, I will be bringing that forward to the Member. We are responding to his statements and questions. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Any further questions, Mr. Picco?

**MR. PICCO:**

Yes, just a comment that I appreciate that. I wonder if the Minister and her staff could tell me when the response will be available because the House ends sitting next Thursday and I go back home. The ERS is pulled out on March 31st so we can see that it is a timing situation and because I have said before, for lack of a better word, there is just bad karma at that airport and I am sure that on April 1 or ten days later if something happens, then someone will have to be responsible. I just want to make sure that I am on record today, if the House is not sitting until May. It is a very serious concern. I would ask the Minister and the department when they think their response will be coming to me, so I can relay the response to the community, which is quite worried at this time.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. We will try to respond as soon as possible. Even if the Member is in Iqaluit, we can still respond and communicate with him. It

Page 980

does not mean that just because he is not here, we will not be able to communicate with him. We will communicate with him as soon as possible. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. I would also like to direct Mr. Picco's attention to the fact that fire fighting training is actually covered in detail under grants and contributions, page 4-43, so there may be opportunity if you have any more questions on that to hold your questions until we come to that detail. Any further questions? Directorate, total operations and maintenance, \$7,258,000?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Agreed. Detail of capital, directorate, building and works, headquarters, total region, \$100,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Total building and works, \$100,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Mr. Rabesca.

**MR. RABESCA:**

Under the community development, is that where we are at, on page 4-17?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

No, Mr. Rabesca, I am sorry. We are on page 4-15. Detail of capital, directorate, total activity, \$100,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you. At this time I would like to say that we are going to take a 10 minute break.

-- Break

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

I would like to call the committee of the whole back to order. We are on community development, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$61,622,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Is community development the area where you start doing block funding? The community of Inuvik has just signed one, so I would like to know what is included in that block funding arrangement.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mrs. Ballantyne.

**MRS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe the question is what is included in the Town of Inuvik's block funding agreement. The Town of Inuvik is being blocked funded now for its full operating and maintenance budget. In addition, there is a capital component in there. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mrs. Ballantyne. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. What would be the items that are not included in the block funding arrangement?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mrs. Ballantyne.

**MRS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. The only major item that is not included in the block funding agreement would be the grant in lieu of park property taxes. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mrs. Ballantyne. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. The water and sewer subsidy is included in the block funding or is that a different portion of the budget?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mrs. Ballantyne.

**MRS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I do not have the town's block funding agreement here, but I will go out on a bit of a limb and say that I assume that it is and I will certainly get back to the Member with confirmation. My understanding is that it is.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mrs. Ballantyne. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. In the area of the block funding, there have been reductions across the board this time and that block funding arrangement they got into, have they received a reduction and how much?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mrs. Ballantyne.

**MRS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, they have not received a reduction to their current year's funding, but they have received a five percent reduction to next year's funding, 1997/98. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mrs. Ballantyne. I have Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. My questions are in the area of who is taking the leading role in the community empowerment issue and my concern lies with what I spoke about earlier. No doubt the department is advising communities saying, "okay, we have community empowerment and we are going to transfer this, we are going to transfer that." How much involvement do the communities and the people of the communities have in designing the community empowerment initiative? Did they have a hand in

analyzing this policy? Some input and opportunity at some

Page 981

point to say, "yes, we like this and we really think you should approach it in this fashion?" Has any of that taken place?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. The communities are involved with everything. If a community is interested in community empowerment, the staff goes in there and talks with them and does the presentation to the community on community empowerment. There is open discussion going on with the community and the department. We get our ideas from the communities on community empowerment. There is a complete, open discussion with the community when the community is interested in community empowerment. I will get Penny Ballantyne to add on some more, but community empowerment is initiated by the community so the department listens to the community. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mrs. Ballantyne.

**MRS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the development of the community empowerment initiative is a dynamic process. We are talking to communities. We are talking to regional leadership meetings. We are hearing from MLAs. We are hearing from the NWT Association of Municipalities. We are getting input from a number of sources, but the bottom line is that the process is driven by the individual communities. It is at that level that the information is provided. The community makes a choice as to whether or not they wish to get into a transfer arrangement. We are trying to focus on the development aspect, on the capacity building aspect and we are not out there flogging transfers and pushing transfers on communities. It is very much a developmental approach that is being taken and where it looks to the community that it is in their best interest to take on a function. Where we can demonstrate that it is cost effective for them to do so, then we facilitate that process. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mrs. Ballantyne. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I may be addressing a question that Ms. Ballantyne answered. My apologies for that. I was trying to sort out a question with one of the Members at the same time. I wonder if Mrs. Ballantyne could just repeat what the Minister said. I am sorry about that.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Mr. Ootes. Mrs. Ballantyne, would you mind.

**MRS. BALLANTYNE:**

Madam Chair. Not at all. Simply stated, this is a dynamic process. The department is working with communities on an individual level to identify their needs, their capacity through a planning and assessment process. It is the community's decision as to whether or not they are interested in taking on further responsibilities. If they are, we provide the information. We facilitate that process with the community. In some communities there is a more tentative approach being taken. The community is not sure. In those cases we facilitate a trial period where the community can manage a program on behalf of the government for a period and that is fine. It is very much driven at the pace of the community. The initiative is really about community development, about building capacity and about, not just the simple transfer programs, but those programs being successfully operated by the community down the road. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mrs. Ballantyne. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

I am wondering what kind of contact is made, Madam Chair, because in the statements that the Minister made this morning, it was stated that they are bringing on stream 12 community empowerment workers. If they are bringing all this on stream, who is doing the community liaison and contact with the communities? I am confused as to how much community feedback has been obtained from the actual leaders in the communities.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. The nine positions I was talking about in my opening statement have been there in the department for some time. They are already there. Those are the people who have been working with the communities and up to now there have been 79 presentations done to communities. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. With respect to resource materials, does the department have resource materials that they go through with members in the community in sessions?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. We have distributed quite a bit of materials to the MLAs already. Maybe I will let Penny answer some of that, but we have distributed quite a bit of materials to the Members in this House.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mrs. Ballantyne.

**MRS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the department has produced a number of resource materials for the use of communities. These have also been distributed to Members for their information, so they can be aware of what we provided in their constituencies. First and foremost amongst these is the Stepping Forward Community Planning Process binder. Every Member has received one. It includes a series of six booklets. They are how-to booklets. They are meant for community people to be able to take and facilitate community planning. Our community empowerment co-ordinators in the region are trained in delivering this material, that is their job. They go into the communities and deliver these workshops, but those materials are there for the



use of the community, if the community wishes to take on this process on their own, they do not have to do it our way. It is simply a tool.

Another resource that has been provided is the GNWT training catalogue. In August, MACA co-ordinated a training fair with all GNWT departments. We pulled together training resources from every department in the government and produced a training catalogue, that puts between two covers every training program that every department offers for community people. Copies of that have also been distributed to Members as well as to every mayor and chief in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mrs. Ballantyne. Final question, Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Just to go back to the reference that it was in the 60s training sessions were held, were these training sessions held with territorial government staff or with community leaders? How many were held with community organizations?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. You are asking about training sessions that were held in the 1960s?

**MR. OOTES:**

The Minister earlier stated 69 training sessions have been held, 79 training sessions have been held. What I would like to know is with whom were those training sessions held? Were they held with government of the NWT staff? How many were held with community leaders and community organizations?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. That gives a whole new meaning to training session held in the 60s. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I thought I was supposed to go back to 1960s for a while. I was talking about 79 presentations to communities on community empowerment. The RICE teams have been trained

already to do these presentations to communities. We have done 79 presentations introducing community empowerment to communities, not training programs. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Community development, total operations and maintenance, \$61,622,000. I have Mr. Roland and Mr. Krutko on the list. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Throughout all departments' business plans we have tried to deal with forced growth. Through your budget there are areas where I see we are putting new items in, new equipment, there is a cost to putting these on an ongoing cost. Has the department done any work in the area of monitoring the growing cost of O and M and of having to replace these facilities on the life expectancy of a facility of a garage or of a grader or of a vehicle in a community? Has the department been monitoring these costs or projected costs? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. That is done through the capital planning process. Yes, to the Member. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. So this has been monitored as the ongoing costs of this equipment and dealing with forced growth. Has the department been looking at, in the years to come, that we will be looking at our dollars that are pretty well flat-lined for resources, where are we heading? Are we going to finding communities where they have a new facility but cannot afford to use it? That is actually starting to happen today. My concern is in the area that we are continuing to do a lot of these to try and empower communities, to make them better, and at the same time communities are having a hard time coming up with the dollars to keep these facilities going.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mrs. Ballantyne.

**MRS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the simple answer to the Member's question is, yes. Forced growth that results from the construction of capital facilities is factored into the department's operational plan. The department's five-year capital plan identified a number of projects. For each of those projects, there are O and M projections that are done in terms of what it is going to cost to either operate or replace that equipment at some point or to operate the facilities that are indicated.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mrs. Ballantyne. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. With these projections, is there a red line somewhere that says we are beyond what we can now handle as a government and as community governments when it comes having the resources to keep all of these facilities going? Can we continue to afford to build all these places, put them in place and operate them in the years to come?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mrs. Ballantyne.

**MRS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you. The Member raises a good point. We are okay in the short-term. If you are asking me to look in the long-term, obviously there is a concern if we stay in the kind of fiscal situation we are in now because of the rate of growth in many of the communities. In our department, so far, we have been able to keep up with the essential projects we see communities need. So far we are not encountering a problem. We are not anticipating one in the near future. We are certainly not at the point where we are unable to meet the basic demands of communities, but I cannot claim to speak on behalf of all of the community infrastructure that is required. So far, in MACA, we are managing. If we had more money, yes

we could build more. There are other needs that are there, but so far we are covering all the bases. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mrs. Ballantyne. I have Mr. Krutko, Mr. Ootes, and Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Madam Chair, I would like to move a motion to report progress.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. It is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed to the motion? Thank you. The motion is carried. I will now rise and report progress. Thank you, Madam Minister. Thank you, Mr. Christensen and Mrs. Ballantyne.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997/98 and Committee Report 03-13(4) and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

**ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):**

Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Saturday, March 1, 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
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 7, Municipal 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
  - Bill 12, Student Financial Assistance Act
  - 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. By the authority given the Speaker by Motion 03-13(4) I hereby order the House to sit on Saturday, March 1st, 1997, from 10:00 in the morning until 2:00 in the afternoon.

-- ADJOURNMENT