



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Good morning. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 67-13(4): Minister Absent From House

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi will be absent from the House for the remainder of the week to attend the Protected Areas Strategy Conference in Inuvik and the Deline Youth Conference in Deline. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Ministers' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 68-13(4): National Junior Women's Curling Championships

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the National Junior Curling Championships were held recently in Selkirk, Manitoba. There are several NWT athletes whom I would like to recognize for their accomplishments. First of all, I would like to congratulate the NWT Junior Men's Team made up of

Jamie Koe, Kevin Whitehead, TJ McDermid and Kevin Cymbalisky. After a strong performance in the round robin they came up against the Ontario rink in the semi-final match and, after a disappointing loss, had to be satisfied with third place.

Secondly, the Junior Women's Team made up of Trina White, Krista Vivian, Jill Kelln and Tasha Riffel played very well in their first trip to the Nationals, although they did not make it to the semi-finals. Still, both teams did demonstrate to all Canadians what our NWT athletes are capable of, and we should be proud of their performance.

Finally, a special mention should be made of Tara Hamer from Yellowknife. She and her Nova Scotia rink gave an outstanding performance in winning this national competition. The Nova Scotia rink with Tara as second will now represent Canada at the World Junior Curling Championships in Karuizawa, Japan.

Tara is the first junior female to have represented two different provincial-territorial jurisdictions at the Junior Nationals and is the first junior NWT athlete to win a national curling championship. This was also Tara's fifth appearance at the junior female nationals, which is a new Canadian record. Prior to her competing with Nova Scotia, she competed for the NWT/Yukon. Three times as a skip and one time as a second. She has also competed for the NWT at the Arctic Winter Games in Slave Lake.

Tara is in her second year of general sciences at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax with a career as an architect in her plans. She travels one and a half hours to train and compete with the team in Truro while maintaining her studies. She also finds time to volunteer as a coach for curling in Halifax.

Tara received the Al Dusseault Award from the Yellowknife Curling Club in 1995 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to curling and also was the Fair Play Award for Skip in 1995, the first year it was presented at the Nationals.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure Members will join me in congratulating our NWT curlers and wishing Tara and the Nova Scotia rink the best of luck representing Canada at the World Junior Curling Championships in Japan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 69-13(4): Information Networks Development Project

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this session, I told this Assembly I would

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provide information about how the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is supporting the development of new uses for computers in the classroom. Today, I am pleased to inform Members about the success of the Information Networks Development project on which we have committed \$911,000 for development and educational use of communications technology during 1996/97.

We asked school governing bodies and the two colleges to suggest projects which would enhance educational opportunities, provide maximum benefits in communities and reinforce the development of northern cultures.

Mr. Speaker, the two Yellowknife District Education Authorities will receive \$130,000 to increase day-to-day use of technology in kindergarten to grade 12 classrooms and to develop training packages for educators on specific uses of technology.

The Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot Divisional Educational Councils and Nunavut Arctic College will receive \$326,000. This will be used to improve the technical infrastructure for Nunavut schools and community learning centres, develop an Inuktitut operating system for Macintosh computers and connect Nunavut Arctic College's three campuses into a single virtual campus.

The South Slave, Deh Cho, Dogrib and Sahtu Divisional Educational Councils and partners in the Inuvik region will each receive \$65,000 for various projects such as providing Internet access to schools and computer training to school and board staff.

Aurora College will receive \$130,000 to design or adapt curricula for four courses for delivery at a distance, and to design and pilot an Interactive CD-ROM for the Adult Basic Education course, Math 20.

NWT educators are already developing innovative uses of technology in the classroom. For example, 20

students from St. Patrick's High School in Yellowknife recently wrote their departmental English 30 exams with word processing software. Mr. Speaker, instead of handwriting their exams, each student typed responses into a computer. Hard copies of the students' work were then sent to Edmonton to be marked. Six students from Yellowknife, Rankin Inlet and Aklavik are currently taking English 30 on-line. Students receive support from a seminar leader in Calgary, who can be reached through e-mail, telephone, fax or regular mail. Students will be able to communicate with their classmates and participate in Internet newsgroups related to the course.

Mr. Speaker, once the digital communications network is in place throughout the north, students in all communities will be able to participate in this type of on-line course. The network will also give students access to two-way interactive video conferencing, in which students and the instructor can see each other through the use of video cameras. Improved use of communications technology will provide increased access to form educational programs in the school system, colleges and community learning centres. Resources like the Internet and educational television offer many informal opportunities for life-long learning for all northerners. These opportunities will continue to increase in the future as the digital communications network is developed and information technology continues to evolve. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Eligibility for Receiving Old Age Pension

MR. NINGARK:

Qujannamiik. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have mentioned the topic I am going to talk about in this House numerous times, regarding the elders, especially in the Natilikmiot region. Some of the elders are able to receive old age pensions but some of them are not able to get the old age pension yet and they have no employment. They have nobody to provide for them. I have mentioned this numerous times in the House, Mr. Speaker. Ever since the beginning, when they did not find out their birth dates from the missionaries and the RCMP, especially in

Pelly Bay, Spence Bay and Gjoa Haven, some of the elders' birth dates are mistakenly printed. The younger ones have been receiving old age pensions even before the older ones because of their mistaken birth dates. When it comes to question period, I will be asking questions regarding this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement On Condolences To the Amagoalik Family

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my sincere condolences and prayers to the family and friends of our elder who passed away on Saturday morning. The elder's name is Imosie Amagoalik of Resolute Bay. Imosie is well known as a guide for sport hunters. He made his living as a hunter. Imosie was a member of various organizations and a member on the hamlet council for a number of years. Imosie will be remembered and sadly missed in that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Future of Work in Nunavut Conference

MR. ENUARAQ:

Qujannamiik (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning colleagues and Mr. Speaker. There is a conference going on in Iqaluit. I am sure this was a very important meeting and I was supposed to be attending that meeting. I would be in Iqaluit today if I was able to go to the meeting, but I would like my constituents from Pangnirtung,

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Clyde River and Broughton Island to know my reasons for not attending that meeting because I feel the main estimates are very important and I should be involved in this House when we are discussing it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement On Negotiated Contracts

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning colleagues. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise to present an item of information. I have said before in this House about misinformation and how we express things. I think that also goes back to our communities. Unfortunately, when we are down in Yellowknife discussing the budget, we seem to be down here for long periods of time. We are not able to contact our communities on a day to day basis with all of the people that are concerned.

Mr. Speaker, I raised an issue about a week ago, I believe, in this House on negotiated contracts. There has been concern raised in the community that I do not support negotiated contracts. I do not believe I came out and said I disapproved of negotiated contracts. My concern, Mr. Speaker, is the distribution of these contracts and whether, as a government, we have a policy of dealing with negotiated contracts that all departments would fall under. We do not have that. I believe the questioning I was trying to bring out was that this government needs to do something in the area of negotiated contracts and bring everybody under one policy.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think negotiated contracts are a negative thing. They have benefited many small companies. They have benefited some larger companies. For the people and businesses in Inuvik, I want to let them know my job down here is to make sure that if there is any work this government does, the community of Inuvik benefits first.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

-- Applause

MR. ROLAND:

This is the approach I am taking. To let the people and the businesses of Inuvik know that I am not down here to make sure the jobs go somewhere else. I am here to make sure the jobs stay in Inuvik. I would like to see a more fair and equitable distribution amongst the companies in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Gender Parity in Nunavut
Legislature

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and support my colleague, Ms. Thompson, for her courage and insight to deal with this issue of gender parity for the Nunavut government.

-- Applause

I believe, as Ms. Thompson does, that a person, it does not matter which gender, should be elected on the merit of morals, for what they stand for and not simply because of a person's gender. In our democratic society, men and women are equal in the eyes of the law and should continue to be so. I know, in some cases, this is not so. However, this government and others throughout Canada and North America are working to ensure equality is a goal for all to reach.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, we have had many women politicians that have achieved many goals including the position of Prime Minister. Others have and still do compete for these positions with their male counterparts. There should be no questions asked as to a person's gender, but simply if the person can do the job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Future of Work in Nunavut
Conference

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today a very important conference is being held in Iqaluit. The conference is supported by the GNWT and sponsored by the NIC. Mr. Speaker, the Future of Work in Nunavut Conference will focus on the changing nature of work and jobs in the future in Nunavut and technologies, job-sharing, as well as flexible work

times will be discussed. The creation of Nunavut will create approximately 600 plus new jobs but with the increase in population and the distance between major centres and development, we will have to find new ways to increase participation in the workforce. The conference in Iqaluit will look at those areas. The information-based economy will need fewer workers and shorter periods of time. This will mean that fewer people may be working full-time as is the norm in the '90s. An example of home-based work in Nunavut is the interpreter/translator career field. Today it is possible and is being accomplished. A home-based translator in Pond Inlet or Clyde River is having documents translated. They are faxed from Iqaluit to the translator and then faxed back when completed. Many of these workers work from their homes with a fax machine and a computer.

In the future, there will be more part-time jobs. We will have to come to grips with this because of the high cost of living in Nunavut. It will put more strain on income support programs. In Nunavut, people want to take time out to pursue traditional pursuits and activities. This could be seen as an opportunity to get more people sharing work and thus increasing the labour participation rate.

Mr. Speaker, the conference in Iqaluit will hopefully give us some directions and answers to these questions of future work in Nunavut. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the NIC, the GNWT and participants on the workshop. I apologize for not being home for the conference as we are still working through the 1997/98 GNWT budget. I look forward to getting home on Friday and meeting with some of the participants and, hopefully, being able to participate in the

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conference with Mr. Arlooktoo and some other Members through teleconferencing later this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Thanks to Well-Wishers

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to thank the individuals and organizations that assisted us in bringing my mother to Yellowknife this weekend. On behalf of the family, I would like to thank those individuals and also the numerous people who have assisted us by phone calls, stopping us on the street, talking to us and visiting the family. I would like to tell people in my riding that my mother is in Yellowknife and she is resting. I would like to say hi to my mother. Take care and get well.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Funeral Facilities in the NWT

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement is on funeral facilities in NWT communities. Mr. Speaker, one of the most difficult times a family can experience is the loss of a loved one. Through times of grief, families in some communities face difficulties with the process involved in laying their loved ones to rest. For many years, people have expressed dissatisfaction because of the lack of proper processes for funeral arrangements and the care of human remains in the NWT. In fact, many communities in the north do not have proper facilities to care for the deceased prior to burial. In some communities, families take on the responsibility of preparing the body for the funeral either because they want to or sometimes because there is nobody else to do it. Sometimes, there are other untrained community people that have to prepare the body. In either case, they do not have a proper facility where they can do this. Additionally, without proper training, there is the danger of infectious diseases being spread from bodily fluids. Many communities also do not have a secure, separate area where bodies can be stored. As a result, families are forced to place the deceased in abandoned buildings until the funeral. During winter months, bodies in some communities must be stockpiled in sheds or warehouses and then buried in the spring and summer. For many families, this adds to the suffering as they cannot have closure until their family members are buried.

Mr. Speaker, this government needs to address two things. Firstly, communities need trained people to help the families of the deceased. Secondly, the need

to address the lack of adequate facilities to care for those who have passed on. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Constitutional Development

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we move into the final week of the budget, it is time to turn our attention, not only to division, but to the people of the western territory, and onto the issue of constitutional development. The MLAs from the west have been very preoccupied with the budget in the last phase of the deficit reduction plan. The people in the communities should be dusting off their copies of Partners in a New Beginning because work is being done to come out to the communities to seek public input and community feedback on the package and the work that has been done. Also, to update people on the latest developments that have occurred. I do not want people to forget this issue. It is very important. There is a lot of work being done. It may not be visible to the public but the commitment is still there, the opportunity is still there and the need is still there. Coming soon to your community there will be public meetings on the issue of the constitution and you will have an opportunity to provide the kind of feedback we need, as a Legislative Assembly, to make meaningful decisions. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Technological Revolution in the North

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My comments today are on the technological revolution that we are going through here in the north. I want to speak about the fact that we need to give thought before we implement all these areas. The main area of concern I have are services almost exclusively on the Internet, forgetting that, perhaps, many people in both the large and smaller communities may not have access. While this makes it a very up-to-date method, it also means that

those who are not on the Internet have to use other means. The example here is the government's phone book which is no longer published. For people in the communities there is NorthwesTel, but if you are trying to reach a specific individual within government, it becomes extremely difficult to do so. This applies to government people for themselves. We have four thousand employees and it is very useful to have a phone book that people can access. As I said, not everyone can access the net. Not all businesses are on the net, so it is difficult. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the government can reconsider its thinking on publishing a phone book which, over the years, has been proven to be extremely useful and beneficial. It is certainly beneficial for the business community and others. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 378-13(4): Co-operative Tourism Efforts With The Yukon

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Roland. This is on behalf of

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Mr. Kakfwi with respect to co-operative tourism efforts with the Yukon. At this time, the Northwest Territories has no formal agreements with the Yukon regarding tourism initiatives. However, the Department of RWED will continue to discuss mutually beneficial tourism marketing and development opportunities with the Yukon. NWT Arctic Tourism, the new tourism industry association of the western NWT, is interested in pursuing Yukon/NWT initiatives in partnership with the department.

On an informal basis, the NWT does work with the Yukon in developing the tourism sector. Initiatives that are under way or are being considered include:

1)Joint promotion advertising.

2)A presentation of NWT tourism opportunities to the Yukon Visitors Centre managers and travel counsellors.

3)Familiarization trips along the Dempster Highway for Dawson City employees, Yukon Visitors Centre staff, Yukon Tourism and Parks staff and various private sector businesses.

4)Jointly agreed upon road signs along the Dempster Highway, and

5)The display of Yukon tourism information in the NWT Visitors Centres and of NWT materials in the Yukon.

The NWT also engages in informal discussions with the Yukon at Federal/Provincial Parks Council meetings on cross-boundary issues.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. It is my pleasure to stand up before the House to recognize my wife, Celine. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Celine Ningark, one of my best friends and also one of the many women I represent in the territories.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Rabesca.

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to introduce the grade 7 class from the Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School in Rae. Their teacher is Gerald Brown. The students are Christina Breen, Kimberly Lafferty, Catherine Sabourin, Tommy Tinqu,

Roxanna Zoe-Fish, Leona Lafferty, Clayton Apple, Colinsa Blondin, Almer Tinqu, Mark Mackenzie, Derek Mantla, Mary Alice Yakkenna, Mark Dryneck, Adrian Koyina, Crystal Rabesca and Mathew Rabesca. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 430-13(4): Aurora Immigrant Investment Program

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal government has just announced changes in the Immigrant Investment Program increasing the limits available. My question to the Minister of Finance is how will this impact on the current Aurora Immigrant Investment Program offered by the GNWT?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 430-13(4): Aurora Immigrant Investment Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The change my colleague alludes to will only have a positive affect on our Immigrant Investment Program that is currently under way. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 430-13(4): Aurora Immigrant Investment Program

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what does the Minister mean by a positive effect? Does he see this government selling more units? Are we going to get more marketing from this type of an increase? Are we going to see more people trying to buy our product under the Immigrant Investment Program?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 430-13(4): Aurora Immigrant Investment Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our fund is currently under way. My understanding from discussions with staff yesterday, is that we have offerings out there for 14 at this time. For the fund to be fully funded, we need to have 150. We are optimistic that the marketing strategy we have in place and the fact that the federal government moved quickly to approve our fund. We have our marketing agents up and running in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Korea, that we will be able to meet the target by the end of June of this year, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 430-13(4): Aurora Immigrant Investment Program

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MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, having followed the Aurora Investment Fund for about a year and having a little bit of involvement when the fund was first looked at last summer, I know a little bit about it. Could the Minister update this House on what he means when he says units are being sold. Does that mean, for example, at the cost of \$250,000 or \$150,000 whatever the units cost price are, is that investors from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, and the other southeast Asian countries he was speaking about have bought into our fund? Is that what he is trying to clarify? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 430-13(4): Aurora Immigrant Investment Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is exactly what it means. I believe we have 14 offerings right now of a

quarter of a million dollars for immigrants who wish to come to Canada who are prepared to invest in our fund. As we sell the units, we will then lend the money out on an ongoing basis. There are applications before the Investment Sub-committee which is outside of government. There are applications before that right now. I do not know to what degree the money has been loaned out because I am not involved on that side of it. We do not want the government involved on that side of it. That is done by an independent sub-committee, independent of government. To reiterate, I believe there are 14 units at about \$250,000 a piece. There are applications before the sub-committee and a contract that we have handling this project. I am optimistic with our strategy we have in place, that we will get the \$20 to \$25 million we are looking for in the Territories and get that money out working for the private sector creating jobs. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 430-13(4): Aurora Immigrant Investment Program

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this independent group is at arms length from this government, as Mr. Todd has said, I guess my follow-up question will be, what are some of the investments of this group or the units that are sold, what industries are they looking at, what areas of non-renewable resources are we looking at? Are we looking at resource industries? Are we looking at the fishery-based industry, for example, in the east? Are we looking at forestry in the west? Mining? Maybe Mr. Todd could elaborate for the people of the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 430-13(4): Aurora Immigrant Investment Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important to clarify that I do not see it and it is not set up in a way in which the government has any direct involvement in the lending of the money. That is done by an

independent group of highly qualified investors who will review applications by the private sector across a wide spectrum of interests and approve or not approve the money. I think it is important to answer it that way. At this time, I do not know which parts of industry are applying for the money. I do know all industries can apply for the money. There are some limitations in terms of minimums in this fund. I believe the minimum is half a million or three quarters of a million dollars. The bottom line is that all industries can apply for this fund. As I said, there is a sub-committee, that is not in government, that reviews it and we have little or no say in how the fund is applied. That is the way we want it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 431-13(4): Elders Not Receiving Old Age Pensions

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Justice. As I stated in my Member's statement, I have people in Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, men and women who are eligible to receive old age pension but are not receiving it. Why? I guess perhaps one of the reasons is because they were registered years after they were born. I have talked to people in Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak and they indicated to me on a number of occasions there are people who are younger than they are receiving old age pension. Mr. Speaker, I guess we are too preoccupied with budget and job creation projects. We tend to forget the very people who provided wisdom and life to us as MLAs. My question to the honourable Minister is will the Minister finally communicate with the elders in Pelly Bay and Gjoa Haven, get the information of their date of birth and get to the bottom of this problem which has been ongoing for many years? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 431-13(4): Elders Not Receiving Old Age Pensions

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be pleased to work with the Member and his constituents on this very important issue. We do have staff on the ground in

Pelly Bay and those other communities as well. If there are any other elders in the Northwest Territories who believe they are eligible for old age pension because their birth was not documented properly by our government, through income support people in the community, we will be pleased to work with those individuals. They have to come forward. We will be pleased to work with them to make sure they get their benefits and we will try to straighten it out. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 431-13(4): Elders Not Receiving Old Age Pensions

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Honourable Premier. My supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is will this be done prior to March 31, 1997?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

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Further Return To Question 431-13(4): Elders Not Receiving Old Age Pensions

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as we can get the names that are involved, we will deal with this issue on a case by case basis. As the elders come forward with their names we can deal with their case individually. What I would recommend to the Member, is to work with the Honourable Charles Dent, who has the staff in the community, income support people to work with those people. We will get as much documentation so we can make sure those elders receive the benefits to which they are entitled. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 432-13(4): Community Consultation For Western Constitution

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and co-chair of the Constitutional Working Group. Could the Minister indicate if the plans being developed are going to speak to the need for community consultation on this very important document we gave to the people some time ago and now have to get their feedback on? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 432-13(4): Community Consultation For Western Constitution

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since we have been sitting here over the last six weeks, we have been developing a plan of action on how to proceed with the consultation into the communities in the western NWT for development of the constitution. Hopefully, we will be finished by the end of the week. Starting next week, on the 10th, we have been developing a schedule of consultation with some of the communities. The Constitutional Working Group office has contacted the MLAs and all the communities in the west, requesting whether or not they are interested in holding consultations in their communities. We have received some indication from some of the communities and they would like to move ahead with us. We have developed a schedule. It is not really firm yet, but starting the week of the 10th, there are going to be some consultations beginning in some of the communities in the west. We will be going into the communities for the next month or two and getting feedback. That is very important and required to move ahead with further development of the constitution for the west. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 432-13(4): Community Consultation For Western Constitution

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the fact that we are now moving into the consultation phase, could the Minister reaffirm the intent of this process? Is the intent of the process not to sell a particular model or package, but in fact to get meaningful consultation

and feedback from the communities, groups and individuals? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 432-13(4): Community Consultation For Western Constitution

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last October the Constitutional Working Group, working throughout the whole summer and into the fall, developed the constitutional package. The intention now as we go into the communities, is to listen to feedback regarding this package. We are not out there to sell the package. We are out there to listen to what citizens in the western NWT have on their minds in regards to developing the constitution of the western NWT based on the guiding principles and objectives outlined in the constitutional package. There are examples of different models in the package. That is not what we are trying to sell. We are trying to get feedback on other models that may be out there. We would like to have some very constructive direction from the communities on how we are going to live together in the western NWT once division happens. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 432-13(4): Community Consultation For Western Constitution

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate how they intend to go with the process for consultation? Will there, for example, be facilitators hired to assist with the process, as MLAs will not have enough time to do it themselves? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 432-13(4): Community Consultation For Western Constitution

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have some facilitators who have been hired by the Constitution Working Group. I could get the names of who they are to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Over the last week, we got the facilitators together and had a workshop going through the package and some of the concerns that have been raised to date. The plan is for the facilitators to go into the communities, and all the major centres, to see what the concerns are. Perhaps we could have good constructive dialogue in all the communities as we go through the north. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 432-13(4): Community Consultation For Western Constitution

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate or commit to sharing this information once the schedule is nailed down by the Constitutional Working Group?

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Once the facilitators are in place the people of the western territory will be given a clear indication through a newsletter, or whatever form is necessary, to let them know what the process is over the coming months, that the eventual plan, in terms of possible ratification in that whole area, so people are very clearly aware of this very important process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 432-13(4): Community Consultation For Western Constitution

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will make that commitment as we go along with this consultation process. It is very important that we keep everybody informed in the west, so that all the concerns that have come up could be addressed and perhaps dealt with and maybe make further suggestions on how to change the package, so it will be acceptable to everybody. Yes, I agree that as things develop in the

west here because of the consultation process, we will be making all the information that is coming forward available through newsletters and reports. We will be developing a communications strategy to deal with that as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 433-13(4): Compassionate Travel Assistance For Students

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. It is in regards to compassionate leave and travel for students, especially in relation to the ones that find themselves in southern institutions or even the Arctic College facilities we have in the north. I have received a lot of phone calls from students in the last year. I have proposed to the Minister and asked for his assistance, but it seemed like it is never a good time. Basically there are circumstances that creep up in relation to having the student wanting to leave school to attend either a family emergency or a funeral of a family or friend. I would like to ask the Minister if there is some sort of a policy or basically, some sort of discretion to allow the government to give students some slack, especially in relation to being able to take some time out from their studies and allow them to go home to be with loved ones and family and friends. My question to the Minister is, is there anything in place to help students that find themselves in this circumstance? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 433-13(4): Compassionate Travel Assistance For Students

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, the Student Financial Assistance program does not allow for compassionate travel. The answer to the Member's question is no. Regulations do not permit any sort of flexibility or individual examination of circumstances for assistance in this situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 433-13(4): Compassionate Travel Assistance For Students

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to there not being a particular policy or regulation in place to deal with this, is there a possibility of reviewing that particular area or policy to see if there is that flexibility with this government to allow that to happen?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 433-13(4): Compassionate Travel Assistance For Students

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have said a number of times in the past, the whole Student Financial Assistance program is under review. I will be distributing a discussion paper later this week to all Members and then we will be embarking on a public consultation process to discuss how the program should be redesigned. It is important to say that one of the driving factors in this whole redesign of the Student Financial Assistance program is the costs for the program that continues to rise and I would suspect that the addition to the program the Member is asking us to examine, would add significantly to the cost. I am not sure that in the redesign, it will be found to be possible. However, everything is on the table in this redesign and I would encourage the Member to bring forward his suggestions for program redesign for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 433-13(4): Compassionate Travel Assistance For Students

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When these students do leave Arctic College or southern institutions, they find themselves having to catch up. Is there any way the department can allow a certain time period for the student to be away from a facility before they are penalized?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 433-13(4):
Compassionate Travel Assistance For Students

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the educational institution is the one that sets the standards for completion of courses. If it is a university in southern Canada, they would have to be the ones that would be approached to see whether or not there is room for compassionate leave. The same is true of the two colleges in the north. I suspect that their requirement will still be there to pass the course at the end of the time given for taking the course. At the end of the semester, the student will still have to pass the course. I do not know of any system which would allow a student to take a longer period of time to complete a course or to carry on past the end of a semester. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Supplementary To Question 433-13(4):
Compassionate Travel Assistance For Students

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The stress and tensions that students find themselves experiencing when they worry about what is going on back home, or having to deal with the whole idea of trying to concentrate on their studies and something else is happening back home with a family member. I am not saying that they can fly through these courses without attending school. I am saying that they will have to catch up but there has to be some flexibility given by a college to allow those people to deal with their grieving, with a matter, and then come back, catch up and complete the course. Is that a possibility with this government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 433-13(4):
Compassionate Travel Assistance For Students

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that most post-secondary institutions will assist students who have personal problems by providing counselling services and by taking into account their individual circumstances to the best of their ability. There are, of course, as I indicated in my previous answer, limitations as to how far a college or university can go, but I am confident that the northern colleges and most southern institutions will assist students when they have personal problems to try and find some way to help them deal with those problems and be successful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 434-13(4): Aurora Investors' Program

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask some questions from the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Mr. Todd, regarding the Aurora Investment Program, which I think is an excellent way for the Territories to get investment money. Certainly, it is done in all the provinces and there are different rates in the provinces. For example, in Australia they charge \$800,000 for the right to enter into the country. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know from the Minister if he could explain to us, which I think would be helpful for the general public and the business community, what the fundamental purpose of the Aurora Investment Program is?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 434-13(4): Aurora Investors' Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The fundamental purpose of the Aurora Fund is to provide investment dollars for the private sector to get on with developing their individual businesses, creating both part-time and full-time job opportunities. As I have said on frequent occasions, I have brought the private sector more and more into being the engine of the economy rather than the government with our shrinking fiscal resources. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 434-13(4): Aurora Investors' Program

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that is a good objective. It is excellent. I wonder if the Minister could tell me, are the investments regulated by some strict guidelines? Apparently, there is a highly qualified investor committee, but are there strict guidelines to follow by both the committee and the individuals who receive funding from this, or companies who receive funding from this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 434-13(4): Aurora Investors' Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I think that is a good question. I think it is important to clarify that the Aurora is not like the BCC. It is not an investor of last resort. It requires solid investment proposals. There is a sub-committee made up of investment managers. There are clear guidelines as to the viability and equity and assets, et cetera. It is a very conservative approach to lending and it has an investment sub-committee made up of investment people. It is backed by Pacific Western, which is a financial group. They are involved. It is a fairly conservative approach to investment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 434-13(4): Aurora Investors' Program

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister clarify for us and give us a little more information on the make-up of the committee. Are they northerners? Are they people from the financial institutions? Just some clarification on that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 434-13(4): Aurora Investors' Program

HON. CHARLES DENT:

The board of directors of the fund are the territorial government. I am the chair at the present time. Mr. Kakfwi is the vice chair as the Minister for RWED. The sub-committee is made up of three financial people from southern Canada, one from the Bank of Montreal, one from the private sector, and one of the owners of the Pacific Western, who are helping to finance this project. It is made up of three independent investment managers I think which is critical. We need to ensure there is no political interference in this fund. It should be done accordingly. You must remember that this fund is independent of the government. We are there because the federal government has said that there must be government involvement in the Aurora Investment Fund, where in the past it could be private sector funds. They are now out. The reason we are there is to jump start this investment fund. There are \$300,000 that we lent out, which

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will be paid back by the funds, so there is a zero cost to this government. Ultimately, it will run and operate on its own once it gets fully funded. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 434-13(4): Aurora Investors' Program

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister advise us how people contact or access the funds? Where do they get information on it and who should they contact in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 434-13(4): Aurora Investors' Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is another good question. We have to get a communications strategy in place. We were just waiting on the approval from the Hong Kong Securities Commission which we just recently received. Mr. Bailey, who was the former deputy minister of RWED, has undertaken this task for me at this time. Whether that will be a permanent or a semi-permanent project, I am not sure, but he has certainly taken on the task, because he was intimately involved and we need to move quickly. He agreed to do this task on my behalf. He recognizes that there is a need for a communications strategy to advise people across the territories that this fund is available. We will be doing that in the very near future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 435-13(4): Information Available on Negotiated Contracts

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my Member's statement, there is concern being raised on the idea of negotiated contracts and whether I support them or not. I think they are helpful in communities, as I have said before. My concern is within this government, which have a number of departments that do sole-sourced negotiated contracts but there is not one policy they fall under. It is difficult for businesses in communities, especially that have a lot of business where they are competitive, to be able to know that they are able to receive some of the benefits of this by contracting with whomever has the negotiated contract as a subcontractor. My question to the Premier is, I have asked him previously on the policy, knowing there is this concern back in my community. I would like to be able to have some material as we go back, if there is anything there on negotiated contracts. I would like to know from the Premier if there is something on the go and is there information that is available that I could share with all the businesses of the community? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 435-13(4): Information Available on Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we can make available to the Member the negotiated contracts policy from the Department of Transportation as well as negotiated contract guidelines that Cabinet uses. We will make that available to all the Members. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 435-13(4): Information Available on Negotiated Contracts

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That information will be very handy to have when I meet with the businesses in the community. I would also like to know from the Premier, in the area of negotiated contracts, it is important in communities that there is fairness and balance to this as they deal with other businesses. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 435-13(4): Information Available on Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The whole idea behind negotiated contracts is to assist the smaller communities get into business. In the majority of the smaller communities, people are saying if capital projects do happen in our communities, then we should be the first to benefit. For example, in the Inuvik and Fort McPherson and Mackenzie Delta area, when the negotiated contracts were done in that area, many regional businesses did benefit because of the negotiated contracts. In Inuvik, approximately 41 suppliers and sub-contractors benefited for \$12.5 million. Out of those same negotiated contracts, Yellowknife's two suppliers and sub-contractors for \$1.6 million and Fort McPherson seven suppliers and sub-contractors, \$1.7 million, Tsiigehtchic, \$50,500. That does not count the actual labour portion of the general contracted Gwich'in Development

Corporation. Negotiated contracts, in most cases, give value for dollar and we get the contract on time and it benefits the local people. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 435-13(4): Information Available on Negotiated Contracts

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the area of negotiated contracts in communities, this government is working on an overall policy that all departments will fall under. Is that correct? Is that where we are heading? Is it going to be under the guidelines of the FMB material for Cabinet? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 435-13(4): Information Available on Negotiated Contracts

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HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are working to clarify and develop that policy. In the meantime, we came into this whole issue of article 24 under the Nunavut Final Agreement that we had to address. I believe we have come to an agreement with NTI on that issue. Now we can carry on to develop that policy further. It is very clear in the Cabinet guidelines we have, that negotiated contracts will be with local companies to benefit local people. Then it has to go regional, then to the rest of the Northwest Territories. That is how it is carried out. But there is no room within negotiations to have any southern input at all or any southern benefits from our contracts. It has to be 100 percent northern or we would not consider it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 436-13(4): Scope of Work At Arviat Power Plant

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. It is my understanding there will be significant work carried out this summer on the Arviat power plant. Can the Minister confirm this and also give some details as to the scope of the work. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 436-13(4): Scope of Work At Arviat Power Plant

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Power Corporation applied for a development permit in the community of Arviat some time ago, to undertake a selective retrofit of the plant to solve noise, safety and appearance issues. The project has been approved by the Arviat community council, I believe, and is now before the board of directors of the Power Corporation for inclusion in this year's capital plan. I expect it will be approved. We are expecting to see a budget for the project, if memory serves me right, Mr. Speaker, of about a million dollars. The project will include new siding, a small extension to the building, a new switch gear to improve safety, as well as new equipment to make the engines quieter and more acceptable to the neighbours. I am also advised, Mr. Speaker, that the corporation will be looking for an opportunity to partner with someone in the community for a joint venture project to sell residual heat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 436-13(4): Scope of Work At Arviat Power Plant

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister confirm that the work will be done over a one or two-year period? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 436-13(4): Scope of Work At Arviat Power Plant

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the total project will take place over two years. Most of the exterior work, the building addition and the clean up of the land, will be done in the first year. The technical part, as I understand it, would come the second year. That would be the installation of new switch gear and the safety related programs. The biggest opportunity for the community in terms of construction and local contracts, would be the opportunity to bid on those in the first year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 436-13(4): Scope of Work At Arviat Power Plant

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank the Minister for his efforts on behalf of the community, ensuring that this work is going to be carried out. Mr. Speaker, one of the primary concerns about the work that was required for the plant was the fact that the plant was located in the middle of town, right next to the elder centre. There is a fair bit of noise that comes from the plant when it is operating. Can the Minister confirm and give some detail as to what work will be done to dampen this noise or to control it, so that the elder centre located next to the plant does not have to be bothered by this loud noise? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 436-13(4): Scope of Work At Arviat Power Plant

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, not being a heavy duty mechanic, I am not sure that I can provide all the details that the Member is asking for. As I understand it, the corporation is proposing to put improved mufflers on the engines, which would significantly reduce the amount of noise in the community. I know that in other communities, there are plants where very little noise is generated. I

suspect that is the route the corporation is proposing for Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 437-13(4): Current Status of Trail Cross Facility

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. The Trail Cross facility in Fort Smith is a regional, if not territorial, facility. As such, its operation effects the youth from my riding. Although the facility is located in my honourable colleague's Thebacha riding, it does effect other people's constituents. I have received a number of complaints recently and again over the weekend with respect to the operation of this facility. I want to ask the Minister, is he kept apprised of how this transition to private operation has gone and how it is operating now? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Return To Question 437-13(4): Current Status of Trail Cross Facility

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not kept apprised on a regular basis in respect to any of the facilities, unless there are concerns that come out as result of some of the operations. I have recently become aware of some of the issues the honourable Member is referring to and have asked the department to provide a status report on exactly what is happening at the Trail Cross facility, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral question. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 437-13(4): Current Status of Trail Cross Facility

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the Minister's response. I do hope that he is kept aware of it and I

will be interested to follow up to see what kind of action will be taken regarding those problems which, in my opinion, are very serious. We are spending the government's resources to positively intervene in the lives of our youth. If that is not being accomplished by this facility and by the way it is being operated, we need to address that. Does the Minister know what recourse we have if this situation is proving ineffective and the problems continue to be on-going and can be related to the fact that this facility is currently privatized?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 437-13(4): Current Status of Trail Cross Facility

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, we would have to wait and see what grounds there were and what problems there are with the operation of the facility and the recourse we would have. Of course, anything that would be spelled out in the contractual arrangement between ourselves and the contractors as far as not providing the performance under the contract, there would be some termination clauses, that if warranted could be enacted, but certainly what we would try to do first, is to determine what the problems are and try to work with the contractors to try to remedy that first, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 438-13(4): Power Outages in Iqaluit

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Power Corporation. Yesterday, the town of Iqaluit experienced rotating power outages. My question for the Minister of the Power Corporation, could he update this House and the people of Iqaluit on the current situation regarding power failures? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 438-13(4): Power Outages in Iqaluit

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is right. There was a power problem in Iqaluit yesterday for a total of about six hours due to generator failures. The problems were remedied and service was restored by Sunday afternoon. We expect all of the generators to be completely repaired by the end of this week. Mr. Speaker, I understand that, in Iqaluit, there was one generator down for repairs, another generator which subsequently failed and was followed shortly thereafter by a third generator failing. I am assured that all of the failures are unrelated and repairs to three of the generators will be completed today. By the end of this week, all four generators will be up and running. Mr. Speaker, any two of the generators could keep the town operating at full power. We should have a fair safety margin restored after today in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 438-13(4): Power Outages in Iqaluit

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I should start off by thanking Mr. Bill Braden from the Power Corporation for phoning me yesterday morning, here in Yellowknife, to keep me up-to-date on the situation. Mr. Speaker, my follow-up question is, in view of the coincidental failures of all of the equipment in Iqaluit, I wonder if the Minister will be reviewing the maintenance schedules and to see exactly what caused these coincidental failures of all the equipment?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 438-13(4): Power Outages in Iqaluit

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that would be a normal sort of occurrence. In any situation like this, a post-mortem is always undertaken to examine why the situation developed and how we could make sure

the utmost is done to avoid it ever happening again. The answer to the Member's question is yes, that will be undertaken. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and those of the Power Corporation to the people of Iqaluit for conserving power on Sunday to ensure the power was out in various sections of Iqaluit for as little time as possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 438-13(4): Power Outages in Iqaluit

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Speaker, the Power Corporation has had some difficulty over the past 12 months in Iqaluit with the generators. You might recall, Mr. Speaker, when I asked about the situation when the generator failed and I think we had to bring one in from Texas. It has been an ongoing problem. I wonder if the Minister, after the post-mortem is done on this current coincidental failure of the three

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pieces of equipment, could provide me with a copy of the post-mortem so that I would be aware of exactly what happened? I have received several phone calls from my constituency today and yesterday on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 438-13(4): Power Outages in Iqaluit

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to advise the Member of the results of the investigation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 439-13(4): Medical Services in Small Communities

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. In the smaller communities, when there is a heart attack in the community, do you have training for the nurses in the communities or do you have to send them out? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 439-13(4): Medical Services in Small Communities

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from my understanding the nurses would have the primary care responsibility of trying to provide immediate resuscitation to anybody who would have a heart attack and trying to get them stabilized as soon as possible, if there is no physician within the community. Of course, they would have to be medevaced to a facility that would have some of the more specialized equipment and human resources, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 439-13(4): Medical Services in Small Communities

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our community, our health centre is quite far. Do they have any equipment for people who have heart attacks that they would use in the smaller communities? Is there anything happening on this? Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 439-13(4): Medical Services in Small Communities

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not know exactly what is at every health centre throughout the Territories. I imagine there is a different amount of

equipment at different communities. I understand that some would have portable fibrillators that may be available for use by nurses who would be trained in the use of that type of equipment. They would probably have monitors that would monitor the heart rates of patients, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 440-13(4): Joint Committee on Division

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of FMBS responsible for division. I know I have his undivided attention. As we put our nose to the grindstone and shoulder to the wheel with division, could the Minister indicate how this Joint Committee on Division is in fact functioning? Is it a smoothly oiled machine where all the Members at the table are pulling in the traces together? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 440-13(4): Joint Committee on Division

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it would be fair to say we are close to a balanced budget agreement which will conclude this week. It is going to require the collaborative efforts of everybody to move forward aggressively on division and meet the expectations of both east and west of the population that we represent. There will be an ongoing requirement for more meetings, not less. Certainly as the Minister responsible for division, I do not want to do this in isolation of a broadly based support for the initiatives that we are taking. I would like to think that committee Members would attend meetings on a more regular basis. It would be fair to say that, certainly in recent correspondence, I have communicated with everybody and asked them to assist me in that process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 440-13(4): Joint Committee on Division

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the fact that this committee is going to be working on behalf of all Members of the 13th Assembly, would the Minister be keeping the rest of us apprised of how things are going and if there are no problems, so we can exert pressure on those who have chosen to sit on this committee on our behalf to make sure that the work in fact does get done? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 440-13(4): Joint Committee on Division

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to remind my colleague that I did write to the honourable Members and asked them to add two other Members to the committee. They, for whatever reasons, choose not to. I think that in some ways that was unfortunate. However, I also

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committed to reporting to the Government Ops Committee on a regular basis and I am prepared to do that. I have said many times in this House for the need of clear and concise communications on this division issue because there is a great deal of anxiety out there, which I believe, perhaps because I am so intimately involved, is somewhat unfounded in terms of the anxiety level when it comes to division. I would suggest that my colleague's question is a valid one. How do we make sure that we communicate more, not less? But we need to ensure that everybody comes to the table when meetings are called for briefings, for an update on what is taking place, et cetera. I am prepared to put an inordinate amount of energy into the division issue with whoever wishes to be at the table with me. The door is open at all times to all Members. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 440-13(4): Joint Committee on Division

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has become more evident to all of us, as we have become more familiar with the huge task ahead of us, that this is not a job that should rest on the shoulders of one or two MLAs, whether they are a Minister or an Ordinary Member. My concern to the Minister is that in fact if we struck a committee and attendance is sporadic and there seems to be a lack of interest or other commitments by some Members, we should be putting people on there who in fact have the time and want to devote the interest and energy to this very important task. I would be very interested to hear if the Minister can crack the whip to make sure that everybody is at the table. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 440-13(4): Joint Committee on Division

HON. JOHN TODD:

I think it is important because you know how the press can distort everything. I think it is important to let everybody know that we are as open as we can be with respect to division. I think there is a great deal of interest in it by this House and by others, whether it is the western coalition that Mr. Floyd Roland heads up, or whether it is with our colleagues and our partners in NTI. This is just another hill that we are climbing. I am fairly confident that in the coming weeks at a political level, once we balance the budget which is imminent in terms of being presented to the House, that there will be a renewed and a continuing effort on the part of all Members of the House and all the other parties outside of this House to move forward in an orderly way on division. It certainly would be my intent, my colleagues' intent and the Premier's intent to make sure that happens. It is just a question of focusing. I think that we are there. Everybody is now recognizing our time is running short and the magnitude of the issue before us is significant. It is going to require a collaborative effort on all parties to move forward to ensure we have two well-funded, and organized governments in April 1, 1999. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 440-13(4): Joint Committee on Division

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When division was a small hill on the horizon, I think it was a fair comment that it was just another hill we had to climb. As it looms larger before us, we have to be careful that it does not become Mount Everest. We are going to have an inordinate amount of problems trying to scale it if we are not all diligent in applying ourselves. I would be very interested if the Minister would be willing to circulate notices of his meeting with this division committee, because I, for one, would definitely be interested in attending if I am around. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 440-13(4): Joint Committee on Division

HON. JOHN TODD:

As Sir Edmund Hillary said as he climbed Mount Everest, I am up for the challenge, Mr. Speaker. I would welcome my colleague and any other colleagues that want to participate in the division of the Territories. I think it is inevitable that we all will. That is my point. I appreciate the line of questioning my colleague is addressing today, but certainly our intent is to make sure that as many people as possible are around the table as we move forward to climb this mountain that I know we will climb. We will reach the pinnacle of success when we sign off on April 1, 1999. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 441-13(4): TI'oondih Healing Camp

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Right Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng. It is a question I basically have not asked for quite awhile but it is in relation to the covering article of the News of the North, where it says that charges were laid in the Fort McPherson murder. My question

to the Minister is, is that because of the closure of the TI'oondih program because of the lack of support from this government? When will we see support from this government for that program sufficient enough to maintain it? I think the individual who is now being charged is a young lady. She has several children. The incident happened to her brother. She lost her brother and basically someone lost his son. We thought we had a mechanism in Fort McPherson that we put in place to assist us in dealing with these types of problems. This is the second murder in over a year in Fort McPherson. We thought we had something that was unique. Now we find that it has fallen on deaf ears where nothing is being done. What is the intention of this government to deal with the TI'oondih Healing Camp?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 441-13(4): TI'oondih Healing Camp

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HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the Member, I cannot say that an individual being charged with murder would necessarily be a result of not having the accessibility of any kind of programming, no matter where it may be. I have said to the honourable Member, in respect to his issue of funding for TI'oondih Healing Camp, that we are moving in a new fiscal year and we are moving dollars to the regional level so we can access funds that, hopefully, would make proposals of supporting any type of facility of programs within their own service area more acceptable. That is without specifically guaranteeing funding for any treatment centre outside of our residential treatment centres now. We will have to wait and see how that new funding mechanism works out, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 441-13(4): TI'oondih Healing Camp

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What type of assurances are we going to get? Is there any money going to be allocated from this government to the TI'oondih Healing Program next year?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 441-13(4): TI'oondih Healing Camp

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as it stands now, there is nothing specifically set aside within our department's budget for funding to the TI'oondih Healing Society. As I have indicated in the past, there will be government dollars put into the regions that will allow communities and regional input into referrals for treatment, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 441-13(4): TI'oondih Healing Camp

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister clearly state with a yes or no answer, if there will be funds allocated to the TI'oondih Healing Program in Fort McPherson?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 441-13(4): TI'oondih Healing Camp

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said no, not directly from the Department of Health and Social Services. There are no plans for us to directly fund through the department at this time, any programs directly to the TI'oondih Healing Society.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question period is over. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Groenewegen.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 21-13(4): Trail Cross Privatization Information

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is, Mr. Speaker, last year the Minister of Social Services allowed the territorial child care facility, formerly called Trail Cross to be privatized. When the proposal call was developed, the Department of Health and Social Services also requested at the same time to include a bid for the operation of the group home, which is located near Trail Cross. Would the Minister provide to this House the following information:

- 1) The accepted bid cost to operate Trail Cross.
- 2) Did the bid cost include the operation of the group home as requested in the proposal call when this facility was advertised for privatization?
- 3) The accepted bid cost to operate the group home.
- 4) Who was the successful bidder on the proposal call for the operation of the Trail Cross facility and the group home?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. We will take a dinner break and, Mr. Steen, you are on at 1:30.

-- Break

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. Good afternoon. We are on item 9, replies to the opening address. Mr. Steen.

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Reply 2-13(4)

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have 10 minutes to reply to the opening address, to address three major points that are very important to my communities. The first part of the story I am about to tell will be addressing Mr. Kakfwi, requesting

information on polar bear fatalities due to the tagging process. I will also be using this opportunity to address the value of information the HTA has applied to the wildlife service and the type of information, whether it is traditional knowledge or whether it is just plain practical knowledge.

Mr. Speaker, the story I am about to tell goes back a long way to 1974. There was a fellow who was contacted by Shell Oil one evening in December, 1974. Shell Oil requested someone come into that camp and get rid of a problem polar bear. The information given to the person was that they had already contacted the wildlife service, who were out the previous day looking for the bear, but they never found it. They suggested

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the people closest to this camp be allowed to take the bear. It turned out that this fellow lived close to this oil camp. But this oil camp was not one of the normal oil camps around the coast, where bear monitors were supplied for this purpose. This oil camp was located about 20 miles back in the tree lines. There were only two people in the camp who belonged to Shell Oil. They were complaining about a young polar bear in their camp. This fellow left, purchased a tag so he could harvest the bear. He left that evening about 9 o'clock at night. It was about a 60 mile drive and he arrived at the camp at about 2 o'clock in the morning. When he arrived there was evidence of the bear. There were small polar bear tracks around the camp. Fresh ones. After a few minutes, he spotted the bear and shot it. He took the bear home to his camp, which was not far away, about 5 miles up the river. There he skinned the bear. He had a partner there, an older fellow. They noticed that the bear was in very poor shape. It was also a young bear and it still had milk teeth. But it was a legal size bear. After they skinned the bear, they noticed the shape the bear was in. They started wondering why the bear was in the condition it was in, and it should have been with its mother. There was no sign of the mother. When they took the skin in to clean it and flush it, they found a yellow spot in the middle of the bear's back, about 3 inches round. It was obviously a fresh wound. The first thing that came to their mind was that maybe these two guys in the oil camp shot it with a .22, but it did not look like a bullet. From the inside of the skin there was just a small little pin hole. There was no bullet hole. Because the carcass was outside of the house, frozen, they cut the portion out that lined up with the mark on the back of bear and they brought it in. They found out what was in that bear.

About five years later, this bear was tagged, Mr. Speaker. It had tags in its ears and that information was given to the wildlife officer. The report the hunter received back, a couple of months later, was that the bear was tagged in October of that same year at Sic-Sic on Banks Island. That is about 150 to 200 miles north of where the bear was killed. At the time it was tagged, it was accompanied by its mother and its sister. There was no sign of those other two bears. About five years later, in 1979 or 1980, this same fellow, during the summer, was hunting caribou 140 miles northeast of Tuk by boat. He had along with him two other fellows. They were hunting caribou on Cape Bathurst. In the process of the hunt, they came across a polar bear. This was a big one. Because the bear was about five miles inland and an odd place for the bear, they decided to go and see the bear to check up on it. Access to the bear was not hard because it was laying out on the side of a creek. They drove up the creek and, for some reason or other, it could not move. When they landed alongside the bear, this fellow went up, had a rifle, and he did not know what was wrong with the bear. But it was in really poor shape. It was just skin and bones. You could see every knuckle on its back bone. Anyway, they walked up to the bear. When he was close to it, the bear got up and dragged itself away. Mr. Speaker, that bear was crying like a baby. It could not even growl. It was crying like a baby. These fellows did not know what to do with this bear. They knew if they killed it, they would have to explain to the game warden how come they had a bear in the middle of summer and no tag. They decided to leave that bear with a piece of caribou meat. They gave it a big piece of meat and they left it there. The bear looked kind of strong. People did not go close to it. They left it there with that piece of meat but could not see anything wrong with the bear. There were no bullet holes, but it was obviously wounded. It had a problem with its back end. There were no bullet holes that they could see.

About three weeks later, they came back on another caribou hunting trip and they decided to check on the bear. They drove over there. The bear was still there. The meat was gone, but by this time the bear was so pitiful, it could not even lift up its head. These hunters took cut up meat, one fellow opened the bear's mouth, and they were trying to put the meat in its mouth so it could swallow. It could not swallow. It was too weak to swallow. These fellows did not have much caribou. They might have had one to three men. Again, they left half of that caribou with this polar bear, but this time they had the opportunity to look at the bear really good because it could hardly

move. It was laying down, like that rug, on its belly. Right in the middle of its back was that same yellow spot as the one that was taken five to six years before that. This fellow told the other guys that he knew what was wrong with that bear, because one of the other guys that was with him was one of the fellows that cut the little bear up. They all agreed that bear was going to die. It could not help itself. They never took the bear. They never killed it. They left it there for the simple reason they did not want to explain that bear. They did tell the people when they arrived home. Now, that bear was also tagged. It had two tags in its ears and they took the numbers off the tags and gave it to the wildlife officer and reported the bear. The report came back that bear was tagged about 15 miles north of where they found it in May of that year.

Mr. Speaker, what was found in the first bear was that a half inch long piece of needle from the dart was imbedded right in the back bone. It broke off in the backbone of that bear. Those bears lived with that. Mr. Kakfwi says he is not aware of any information. His response to Mr. Ningark on February 11th in the Hansard: "I would be very interested to know of any fatalities as a result of these exercises and how many times they have killed a bear in the conduct of these studies." He also says, "I understand the practice is considered acceptable and it is the only viable way of studying polar bears. They are certainly not sheep. We cannot just walk up to them and pat them on the back and throw a collar around them." True enough.

Mr. Speaker, a couple of years after they found that big bear, there were reports from the coast around Tuk and Herschel Island of bears drifted up on the beach in the summertime, dead. They all had tags or radio collars. One thing the hunters and trappers know was in order to harvest quotas, we had to support the programs. We also knew that if we spoke against these programs, we would probably pay the consequences. Mr. Speaker, some of this stuff is pretty hard to take, what a man has to go through in order to study an animal. The one thing we were sure of, if the wildlife officers or the biologists bothered to check those bears that were drifting up on the beach, they may have found a yellow spot on the bears. I do not know if they ever did.

Mr. Speaker, that addresses my point to Mr. Kakfwi in regards to his fatalities of polar bears. We do not know much. But, we do know that in order for the biologist to put radio collars on these bears and in order to have a continuous operating

system, they must re-drug the bear every year in order to change the batteries on that radio collar. It is an endless system. How many times did they have to drug the bear in order to prove a point? I do not know. Until the biologist is satisfied? Now the biologists come into our communities and they give us reports that they are not simply using radio collars anymore, they are putting packsacks on these bears now, so they can better track them by satellite. They have indicated to us that some of these bears take straight off from our coast right across the Pole to Russia, a straight line northeast. I wonder if the drugging process might not be an explanation of why that bear took off. The other question is, how does the bear manage to dry himself? He goes in and out of the water steady, hunting seal. How does he dry himself? When he comes out of the water, he rolls in the snow to dry himself. I wonder how he dries the hair under that packsack. I wonder how big the lump of ice gets around the collar every year because he has no way to lick that ice and take it off? The only hope he has is to fall asleep and it might melt off. We do not know.

The point of all this, Mr. Speaker, is that this is not only happening to polar bears. This is happening to all the big game animals this government tags. They use the simple process of aircraft and helicopters to put in the darts. If there was another system, they would probably not have to worry about hitting the animals in the middle of the back with the dart guns because there is nothing between the backbone, there is just hair. There is no fat in there, there is nothing. There is just a dart straight into the bone and that is what is happening to these polar bears. I am not surprised to hear in the central Arctic, people are starting to report polar bears that have died as a result of drugs. It is not the drugs, it is the needle in his back. That is what is killing them. All of us know how painful it would be if we had a needle stuck in our backs. This government has to find another way. They just have to or there has to be a point in time when you no longer have to keep drugging animals in order to count them.

Mr. Speaker, the hunters and trappers are the main source of information for the wildlife service on the effectiveness of their programs. They are the only ones. The other half of the program is the hunter. He would know whether or not the program was effective. It must also be taken into consideration that if he does not support it, maybe there is a good reason. Maybe there is a valid reason. Maybe it is traditional knowledge, call it whatever the Minister wants to call it. It does not really matter. The information is there. What gets me is, that the Minister is now cutting the

money to these people, these very people that he is using to supply him and his department with all this information. Not only do they supply him with this information, they have to administer his quota systems. They have to be the ones to state the quotas to their own people. They are the ones that have to take the pain and say, "No, you do not need one right now. Somebody else needs one more than you." They are the frontliners, not the wildlife officers, not the Minister. The hunters and trappers have to face their own people and say, "No tag for you this year, sorry."

The way I look at it, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister does not put the money back for these communities for the hunters and trappers programs, he can expect himself and his wildlife officers to start administering these programs, hunt around the country and see what effect the programs are having on the animals. He can expect all that. But, there is one thing, Mr. Speaker, about this type of information the Minister and his department receives from the hunters and trappers. This information could be traditional knowledge, it could be just plain, practical common sense or some people would call it practical experience. Whatever name you put on it, it is free. The hunters and trappers do not charge for this stuff. They give it to the wildlife officers and the biologists free. Because it is free, does that mean it is worthless? Is that the attitude of the department because the information is free, it is not worth anything? That is the whole question. This stuff is free, people give it out freely because they know and hope that the information will in fact assist them in their harvesting and keeping the populations that they need to maintain those quotas. The Wildlife Department should not look at this stuff as simply, well it is free, it is not documented. Maybe we should pay a biologist or a consultant to document this stuff and then it will be worth something. We know how much we paid for it, then it becomes worth something. That kind of defeats the purpose, Mr. Speaker and I am sure the Minister would be the first to admit that. The value of the information these people supply to the wildlife service is priceless. This department could never afford all the trips the hunters and trappers make all over the land, covering hundreds of miles every day of every month. The wildlife service should realize these people, hunters and trappers, are the wildlife service's eyes and ears on the land. Without them, the system would collapse. It is very important and I am sorry the Minister of Wildlife is not here to hear this, but I hope the Premier will pass this on to

him, because it is very valuable information I am giving him.

Mr. Speaker, if I can summarize now what I have said to some degree, the tagging programs in the Beaufort Sea, because the oil companies have gone, are no more. The Americans do it now. The Americans still fly across the border because we have an agreement with them. I, myself, have ridden in their helicopters while they tagged our bears because they want to know whether these bears drift back and forth across the border. There was one important point that an American biologist pointed out to me, he said, "They cannot drug a bear when it is close to open water. They have to try and push the bear back, away from the open water, before they put a dart in him." A natural instinct of a polar bear when he sees a helicopter is to head for water. If the bear goes into the water while he is drugged, he drowns. He cannot swim, he cannot help himself, he drowns.

Mr. Speaker, although the tagging program in my area is finished for the time being, it still goes on in the central Arctic and in the high Arctic. The wildlife service has to seriously take into consideration what these people are telling them, because they also tag moose and buffalo. The Minister says they are certainly not like sheep. I disagree with you because, in his own area, they tag sheep, mountain sheep, mind you, but it is still a sheep. The wildlife service has this practice all through the system and all through the mammals they monitor. I believe it is time they found a new system of tagging these animals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Steen. 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. Antoine.

ITEM 13: TABELING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, The Report to the Legislative Assembly for 1996 on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1990, Tabled Document 63-13(4). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following documents, the Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report for 1995 and the Aurora Arctic College Annual Report for 1995, Tabled Document 64-13(4). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 12-13(4): Appointments to the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 5, 1997, I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner that the Honourable Mr. Justice J.E. Richard, be appointed chairperson and Mrs. Sandy Kusugak and Mr. Titus Alloo be appointed members of the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Mr. Barnabas.

Motion 13-13(4): Recommendations For Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission Act

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 5, 1997, I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that the Legislative Assembly proposes, pursuant to section 23 of the Electoral Boundaries Commissions Act, that the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission ensure that its report contains options for both 10 or 11 dual member electoral districts and 20 to 22 single member electoral districts. Further, pursuant to subsection 24(1) of the Electoral Boundaries Commissions Act, the Legislative Assembly requests that the Nunavut

Electoral Boundaries Commission complete its report on or before June 30, 1997. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 13: Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 1997

HON. KELVIN NG:

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that Bill 13, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 1997, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng, the motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. First reading of bills. Item 17, first reading of bills. Bill 13 has had first reading. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bills No. 2, No. 7, No. 8, No. 9, No. 10, and No. 12; Committee Report 2, 3, 4, and 6, with Mr. Steen in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I would like to call the committee to order. Items for consideration in committee of the whole. Bill 2, No. 7, No. 8, No. 9, No. 10, and No. 12. Committee Report 2, 3, 4, and 6. Could I have some direction from the committee as to how to proceed? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to proceed with Bill 8; Committee Report 2, 3, 4, and 6, concurrently, and to consider the NWT Housing Corporation followed by the Department of Justice and the Legislative Assembly, in that order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I would like to invite the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation for opening comments. Mr. Goo Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present the 1997/98 main estimates for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

For 1997/98, we are asking the Legislative Assembly to approve a total capital contribution of \$43,217,000. In addition, we are requesting approval for a total O and M contribution of \$55,118,000. Combined, these total \$98,335,000 of GNWT funding.

Last fall, the corporation made a commitment to Cabinet and FMB to reduce its combined capital and O and M contributions for 1997/98. The corporation has met that commitment. The contribution the corporation is seeking is a reduction of \$7 million from '96/97, a reduction of 6.6 percent.

To achieve its O and M reductions, the corporation proposes to eliminate another 28 positions. By the end of 1997/98, the corporation will have reduced its staff by 60 positions, a reduction of 31 percent since 1995/96. I am confident that in its new, downsized form, the corporation can continue to provide adequate levels of service to residents of the Northwest Territories. However, I believe any further cuts at either the headquarters or district level will seriously jeopardize

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the corporation's ability to carry out its basic day-to-day responsibilities to the people of the north.

This reduction in funding poses a significant challenge to the corporation. By becoming more efficient and creative in the use of available funds, the corporation will provide assistance to a record number of families with housing problems. In addition, the corporation and the local housing organizations, through increased efficiencies, will continue to manage over 5,800 rental units in the existing social housing portfolio.

These efficiencies will be achieved through increased flexibility in the management of our rental stock. This flexibility will be obtained through an agreement with

the federal government to transfer the responsibility and the funding for the management of the existing social housing portfolio to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Negotiations for the transfer are nearing completion and I hope to submit a proposed agreement to Cabinet within the next 60 days.

The corporation will also take steps to further reduce its future O and M costs through a new initiative which will result in the replacement of older, inefficient water heaters and appliances with new, energy efficient models over the next two years. Priority will be in those communities where the pay back period is estimated to be less than 2 years. This initiative will benefit local housing organizations, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, and the Housing Corporation itself.

The corporation is now in the process of completing the 1996 housing needs survey. I expect to table this survey report before the end of this session of the Legislative Assembly.

The corporation will use the results of this survey to launch a new initiative which will be most ambitious. As I announced earlier to Members of this Legislative Assembly, the corporation is currently working on a plan which will see 2,000 families with housing problems receive assistance by the year 2000. One of the most important aspects of this assistance will be the installation of proper plumbing facilities in every home in its rental portfolio. I hope to begin implementation of Plan 2000 and report progress when we return to this Legislative Assembly in June.

As I stated earlier in this session, Cabinet has approved a one year moratorium on the implementation of the next phase of the corporation's rent scale. The corporation will use this one year pause to analyze the impact of the implementation so far. In conjunction with our social envelope partners, to ensure that public housing tenants across the Northwest Territories are being treated fairly and equitably, the corporation will implement phase three of the rent scale in April of 1998, following the one year delay.

In anticipation of division of the Northwest Territories and the creation of Nunavut, the corporation took a proactive approach during the restructurings which occurred in 1996/97. The corporation consolidated its technical operations and programs branches into one operations branch split into two divisions, one east and the other west. During 1997/98, the corporation

will continue this approach by restructuring other areas of its operation into east/west components.

Community empowerment is one of this government's major priorities. The corporation will continue to be proactive in support of community empowerment. As Members are aware, the corporation has always maintained a high-level of local involvement in the management and administration of its rental units through the local housing organizations.

The corporation has taken local involvement to the next phase, working with interested communities to successfully transfer the responsibility for the delivery of all housing programs and services to the community level. The communities of Detah, Ndilo, and Pelly Bay now deliver all housing programs and services to their residents.

Other community governments, such as Tsiigehtchic and Holman, are due to sign agreements to assume responsibility for the management and administration of the rental programs, while other community governments in Snare Lakes, Aklavik, and Fort Good Hope have assumed responsibility for the delivery of all home ownership programs in their community.

As of today, the corporation is actively working with local government leaders in one-third of the communities in the Northwest Territories, to transfer the responsibility for housing to the community level.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my remarks. I would be pleased to answer any questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. I will now ask the Minister if he would like to bring in the witnesses. I am sorry, I missed a portion of the program here. I invite the chair of the standing committee for a report of the department's estimates. Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, everyone.

NWT Housing Corporation

The committee is pleased with the work of the corporation in trying to provide a high level of service with the reduced resources. We generally support the changes planned for the corporation over the next year.

Financing Additional Units

With limited dollars and an ever increasing demand for social housing, particularly in the east, we support the creative efforts of the corporation to finance additional housing units. We are encouraged to learn that there is the potential to significantly increase the number of units built next year. At the same time, we expect to see adequate checks and balances built in so the corporation does not get into a difficult debt situation.

The corporation mentioned that the areas of lot development and land reform (rates for lots) could have a negative impact on just how far they can go with their ideas to increase the number of housing units next year. We encourage the government and the Standing Committee on Infrastructure to work together to ensure that the opportunity to provide additional social housing is not delayed unnecessarily by land reform issues.

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CMHC Funding Transfer

Local Housing Organizations

The LHOs will have to share in the reductions again this year. The committee is pleased to see that, while LHOs make the decisions where to reduce costs, the corporation provides a list of possible areas for reduction which have worked elsewhere. This is the type of helpful information which we had hoped would be provided in a number of areas where communities are making decisions: income support, community justice, community wellness. While the local organization will make the final decisions, it is always helpful to have suggestions to add to local ideas. This saves each community from having to reinvent the wheel.

The corporation has ambitious plans to transfer responsibility for housing to communities by the end of next fiscal year. Where communities and LHOs are ready, we applaud this. We are concerned about the ability of some LHOs to take on this responsibility. They are coping with a funding change as well as being responsible for living within their budget for the first time. Taking on full responsibility may be asking too much of some LHOs in the one year time frame set out in the business plan. It may also be difficult for the corporation to provide sufficient staff support to the LHOs if many transfers are taking place at the same time. The committee supports a process for monitoring and supporting LHOs as they become

financially independent and responsible for managing their budgets.

Increasing Community-Based Staff

Members believe that the organization structure could provide more support directly at the community level. There are still many staff at the district level who are supposed to provide community support and development. The committee suggests it is difficult to do community development in Fort Resolution if you work in Hay River, just as it is difficult to do community development in Cape Dorset if you are based in Iqaluit.

As communities take over more of the housing programs and services, there will be a decreased need for the district staff as they now operate. Transferring district staff into communities where they can work directly with the LHOs and local residents is consistent with community empowerment. It will also provide the vital support to communities as they take over programs in a more effective and responsive manner. The committee would like to see a plan to have more district staff working directly in the communities they are supposed to support. This plan should address the differences between the program and technical sides of the corporation, training needs and the issue of duplication of services (LHOs versus district staff).

Recommendation No. 18

The standing committee recommends that the Housing Corporation prepare a plan to locate more district staff directly in the communities they support and that this plan be provided to the committee before the review of the 1998/99 business plans.

Rent for seniors

The policy of no rent for seniors concerns the committee. We understand that the corporation asked LHOs and seniors for their opinion of the policy over the summer. However, there is a clear need to revisit this issue. The problem with this policy is that it creates inequities among seniors. Those who have tried to live independently are expected to carry the full cost of their accommodation while the GNWT pays the full cost for those who are in social housing. The policy is not consistent with the Health and Social Services goal of encouraging people to live independently.

The no-rent policy must also be considered as part of the larger picture. The GNWT provides a wide range of subsidies and programs for seniors. Not only is there not a comprehensive list of these programs, there is also a lack of co-ordination and consistency between them. We do not know which are taxable, which are not and how they all fit in together. Rather than addressing one piece in Housing, another in Health and still another in Education, we believe the government should be looking at the package of what is available for seniors. As a committee, we want to see support which ensures all seniors can be independent as long as possible and live with dignity.

Recommendation No. 19

The standing committee recommends that the corporation review the no-rent policy for seniors and develop a policy which would recognize the contribution of seniors to our society while still requiring a payment consistent with ability to pay;

And further, that the review of the no-rent policy for seniors should be done as part of the comprehensive review of all senior programs and subsidies to be conducted by the social envelope departments.

Program Changes

The corporation is looking at streamlining and consolidating a number of its programs. The Minister and his staff provided a briefing to us on the proposed program changes. We support the direction the Minister is taking. We do encourage the Minister to complete the analysis of the benefits of the proposed changes. The corporation has good information on the financing issues. There is also a need for more precise information on the number of renovations and new housing units which will result from these changes. The actual product

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to come from the new direction is still very vague. We will be looking for more clarity as the corporation has the opportunity to focus on these details.

We are comfortable with the new direction being proposed for the corporation's programs. However, there are many things which will have to be considered. For example, while underwriting mortgages at the banks will free up resources, it also means the corporation will have to do more work with clients and will need to make better decisions about clients than some of the decisions made in the

Access program. The committee is concerned that people entering into home ownership need to fully understand the financial implications of operating their own homes.

The corporation is making efforts to ensure the best use of their dollars. We agree with the efforts to assist those 200 families in social housing with relatively large incomes to pursue home ownership. With 50 percent of the Access clients in arrears on their payments, we also support the mortgage arrears policy, provided it is implemented with the degree of compassion and the Minister and his staff discusses it with us.

Staff Housing

The committee is concerned about examples of empty, heated staff housing in communities where there are waiting lists and families living in overcrowded situations in public housing. These housing units should be turned over for use by LHOs to house needy public housing families.

While the Minister of Finance has indicated support for this approach in the Legislative Assembly, there is no clear date for these types of transfers to happen. We would like clarification on the timeline for the transfer of staff housing units to the LHOs.

Seniors' Housing

The corporation builds seniors' housing units on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services. This year there will be 16 new units. We would like additional information on where units are allocated, how decisions are made about allocation, and where these units have been allocated in the past.

Northern Manufacturing Policy

There was significant discussion about the northern manufacturing directive and its impact on the corporation. The committee agrees with the efforts to support northern manufacturing. However, we would like to see a standard of reasonableness applied. There seems to be some weaknesses in the current approach. We would like to see the corporation look at regional tenders rather than territory-wide tenders. This would make it more feasible for a small, fledgling operation to compete and supply products for their region. They would still have to be competitive but the opportunities would be opened up to more businesses. We understand that while some products

are made in the north, there are times when the supplier cannot match the demand so parts come in from the south anyway. Regional tendering might also help address the limited capacity of some of the suppliers. In the past, there have been some complaints about quality of products. Northern manufacturers, in exchange for the premium on their services, should be required to guarantee their products.

The Legislative Assembly recently considered this issue and adopted the recommendations of the BIP Working Group. We encourage the Minister to support the recommended changes to the northern manufacturing directive.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. I will now ask the Minister, Mr. Arlooktoo, if he would like to have witnesses present.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Can the Minister have witnesses present?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to bring in the witnesses. I would like to ask the Minister if he could introduce his witnesses please.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Chairman, to my left is Mr. Joe Handley, the president of the Housing Corporation. To my right is Jeff Anderson, the corporate controller of the Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you and welcome to the committee. I now open the floor for general comments from Members on the department's estimates. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make some general comments on the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation main estimates for 1997/98. First of all, I would like to thank the Minister for his professionalism and his staff here in Yellowknife for being available for constituency concerns. I would also like to acknowledge the regional office staff in Iqaluit who have responded time and time again for information and requests on constituency matters. Mr. Chairman, the proposed amalgamation is now put on hold and I think a collective sigh of relief from all concerned is evident. Mr. Chairman, just a couple of areas I would like to note is the need for more social housing, that is new social housing. It is not and will not be addressed by Plan 2000. I think that is a major oversight. But, after saying that, I do understand the fiscal realities facing the Housing Corporation and this government. But I think that we should be looking at construction of new social housing units and somehow finding a way to build these.

On the northern manufacturing policy, I agree with the Standing Committee on Social Programs that the northern manufacturing policy should be based regionally and not territorially. Mr. Chairman, why I say that is if a product is manufactured here in the west, in Yellowknife and, because of the standard purchasing orders and that, if it is a set of windows or doors, we have to ship them all the way to Edmonton across the country to Montreal to be repackaged

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and then reshipped back up to Iqaluit, to the Baffin region, to the Keewatin region. I think that this costs a lot of money to the government and I think that it is wrong in these days of tight fiscal management. I would like to see the purchasing orders, standard manufacturing orders based regionally and not territorially. That is the problem that we have with the territorial government at times, we try to come up with the process or policy for all the territories and not taking in the uniqueness of different regions and areas of the territory.

On the DAP, the downpayment assistance program, another program offered by the corporation, I am in agreement with them. I think they have helped put young couples and young families into home ownership. I think that is a good part of the Housing Corporation. I think we are getting to the point of saturation where the people who are eligible to carry a mortgage have been met. For that reason, again, I think Project 2000 may have some problems. I think

the majority of people are out there. What we have to look at here, Mr. Chairman, is that Canada Housing Mortgage Corporation will ensure any mortgage in the Northwest Territories, if the person can float that mortgage and prove that to the banks and the mortgage corporation. The person just has to come up with the five percent down. The amounts that have been forecast for Project 2000 seem a bit high. Mr. Chairman, those are just my opening comments and I will have some questions later for the Minister. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. General comments. Detail? Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as a Member of the Social Programs Standing Committee, it is good to see us moving in areas of trying to make more housing available to the residents of the Territories and trying to free up some units so we can better address the social housing issue. I do have some concerns with the opening remarks made by the Minister. If the proposal is to eliminate another 28 positions, I want to know if those are positions that have already gone through the system or are they ones to come? With the putting off of the rent increases, just to get information out to the people of the territories, what kind of an impact or result will that have on constituents, both east and west? In general as the Minister has stated, it is a very ambitious program and it would be good to see us achieve as much of this as possible. As we stated in our report, we would like to make sure the Minister and the department address the areas of concern about debt load and possible problems when it comes to people being able to afford their units. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Are there further general comments? If not, I will ask the Minister if there is any response he would like to make to the general comments made by two honourable Members. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Chairman, I will wait until there are specific questions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On page 8-12 of the NWT Housing Corporation, operation and maintenance, total operation and maintenance, \$55,118,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 8-13, detail of capital, NWT Housing Corporation, contributions, headquarters, total contribution, total region, \$7,662,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, Fort Smith, total region, \$3,725,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, at this point I would like to advise the Members that a business which I control, Greenway Holdings Ltd., leases office space to the Hay River Housing Authority, which is an agency of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. As such, I am in conflict. In consideration of this line, I would declare this conflict, refrain from debating this matter and withdraw from the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Contributions, Inuvik, total region, \$5,126,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, Baffin, total region, \$12,718,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, Keewatin, total region, \$7,522,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, Kitikmeot, total region, \$6,464,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total contributions, \$43,217,000. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on the total contributions, I do not see what the prior year costs were. Is there anything in there for forced growth amount of \$43,217,000? Maybe the Minister could tell us what was in there last year? I do not see it in the book.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Chairman, the prior year costs for 1996/97 was \$52,706,000. The 1996/97 estimates are \$46,870,000, for a reduction of 6.6 percent.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total contributions, \$43,217,000. Agreed? Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In all of this, where would the LHOs come into this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Chairman, the LHOs come under the operations and maintenance section of the budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. I believe we are on total region. I am sorry, we are on total contributions, \$43,217,000. Agreed? Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion on page 8-12.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Enuaraq, could I finish with total contributions and then total activity and then I will ask the committee to go back to page 8-12? Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

That would be perfect, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Total contributions, \$43,217,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total activity, \$43,217,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Does the committee agree that we go back to page 8-12, total operations and maintenance?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

Committee Motion 34-13(4): Plan for the Location of Housing Corporation District Staff

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to make a motion on page 8-12 and the motion is also translated into Inuktitut. I move that this committee, the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation prepare a plan to locate more district staff directly in the communities they support and that this plan be provided to the Standing Committee on Social Programs prior to the review of the 1998/99 business plans.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. The motion is translated in the appropriate languages and is in order. To the motion. I will have to ring the bell. I recognize a quorum. Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion? Those opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Enuaraq.

Committee Motion 35-13(4): Review of the No-Rent Policy for Seniors

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make another motion on page 8-12 and the motion is also translated into Inuktitut. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation review the no-rent policy for seniors and consider the development of a policy which would recognize the contribution of seniors to our society while still requiring a rental payment consistent with ability to pay. Further, that the review of the no-rent policy for seniors be done as part of the comprehensive review of all seniors' programs and subsidies to be conducted by the social envelope departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. The motion is translated into the appropriate languages and is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried. Total operations and maintenance, \$55,118,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Turn back to page 8-14. Detail of grants and contributions, contributions. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of reductions going out to the local housing organizations, what is the process being used? Is it going to be across the board? Percentage reduction? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Honourable Minister Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Chairman, the basis is on across the board reductions, but there are adjustments made for recognizing how much revenue they receive from rents, the value of their inventory, et cetera.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do the local housing organizations have a surplus deficit retention program in place as well? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Chairman. Yes, they do. The process is that it is up to them to pay the deficit, but if they have a surplus, the local LHO is allowed to keep 50 percent of the surplus.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister inform us how many of the LHOs are in the surplus situation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Chairman, across the NWT, the accumulated surplus is about \$1.7 million and that represents all but 10 of the LHOs. That is to say, 10 of the LHOs across the NWT are in a deficit situation.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the Minister list all LHOs available to the Members that would show the boards that have surpluses and deficits? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Chairman, we will make that list available to the Legislative Assembly staff to be distributed to the Members.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. I have contributions, total contributions, \$55,118,000. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Chairman, I do not know if this is the appropriate time to address this question, but we will give it a try. In reference to community empowerment and transferring the LHOs over to the hamlets, if an LHO has a deficit and the authorities and responsibilities are transferred over to the hamlet, does the hamlet have to assume that deficit or that responsibility? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Chairman, the majority of the LHOs are not in deficit, all but 10. If there is a deficit, that would be part of the transfer negotiations and the numbers would be negotiated between the hamlet, the LHO and the Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister saying that the hamlet would absorb that deficit?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Chairman, what I said was that the deficit, if there was one, would be subject to negotiations so that it could be negotiated down. If the deficit was the result of something uncontrollable to the LHO, the Housing Corporation would absorb it. It would be dealt with on a case by case basis.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Total contributions, \$55,118,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total grants and contributions, \$55,118,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. Page 8-15, information item, active positions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Information item, page 8-16, pro forma income statement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. We will now turn back to program summary, NWT Housing Corporation, operations and maintenance, page 8-11, total operations and maintenance, \$55,118,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Capital, total capital, \$43,217,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total expenditures, \$98,335,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses. We will take a 15 minute recess.

-- Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

The committee will come back to order. Are we agreed we will now move on to deal with the Department of Justice?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I invite the Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Honourable Mr. Ng, for his opening comments and departmental estimates.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present the 1997/98 main estimates for the Department of Justice. Although these estimates basically represent "hold the line" or the status quo budget the department will, over the course of the next several months, develop a comprehensive strategic plan. The plan will include the planning required to establish two justice systems, one for Nunavut and one for the western territory.

Mr. Chairman, there are two exceptions to the "hold the line" approach to the 1997/98 main estimates. The first is that \$1.5 million has been added to the department's community justice and corrections budget to enhance the Community Supervision Program. The second exception is the addition of \$550,000 to the correction's budget to increase the use of custodial camps. In addition to supplementing the budget allocations to wilderness camps, we plan to distribute funding on a per diem basis, which we expect will stretch the camp

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utilization and value for money even further. As Members may be aware, the growth in the number of people sentenced to incarceration has far outstripped bed capacity in territorial correctional centres. While the department plans to deal with some of these pressures by shifting emphasis from incarceration to alternative methods of dealing with offenders, existing facilities are still very much needed. The increased demand for prison beds, coupled with expenditure reductions, has resulted in rapidly deteriorating facilities, overcrowding, inmate and staff unrest. In an attempt to address these difficulties, we have added \$1 million to the corrections capital budget.

In the upcoming fiscal year, we are planning to enhance community supervision services. We expect to accomplish this in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Services by distributing funds through regional health and social service boards. The focus of this initiative is to train workers to

prepare pre-sentence reports and to supervise offenders in the community. An additional benefit anticipated is that frontline social workers will be freed up to focus on the other aspects of their jobs within the communities. It is expected that the regional boards will target certain communities to assume full responsibility for the supervision function.

From experience gained in transferring this responsibility to identified communities, other communities will start the process and grow from there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Miltenberger. Do you have a point of order?

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Could I have a copy of the Minister's remarks so we can follow discussions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Minister, it would be nice if we had a copy translated. Do we have them available? Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure exactly what part of the process it is at, but I know there are translated copies. Maybe, we could have the staff check on that now, because I am reading from one that is translated on both sides. Right there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, I guess one of the rules of the committee and of the House, whatever we have in English has to be translated as well. Thank you. Could we ask the Minister for one minute while we distribute the copies? Mr. Ng, you may proceed.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is expected that the regional boards will target certain communities to assume the full responsibilities for the supervision function. From experience gained in transferring this responsibility to identified communities, other communities will start the process and grow from there. Although no new funding has been allocated to community justice, there will be a renewed emphasis on diversion. As well, there have been additional

training and planning opportunities provided in 1996/97, through the delivery of regional community justice conferences and the development of an educational video. We believe that the benefits derived from the investment in these information-sharing conferences will help to set the direction for community justice activities in 1997/98.

Reductions to the court services budget in previous years have set the stage for developing a process to unify the court registries by March 31, 1997. We expect to realize enough savings from this streamlining initiative to allow us to offset the overall growth in demands on the court system. The sheriff's office will be downsized and a closer link with the registry office will be made to improve efficiencies and realize economies of scale. As well, the department is studying the feasibility of privatizing court reporter services.

The budget for the coroners' program has been reduced by \$150,000, primarily to offset incremental funding that was added to the 1996/97 main estimates to reduce backlog. Assuming that the strategy produced the desired results, the coroners' program should operate adequately in 1997/98 with reduced funding. The department will also continue to work with the RCMP to enhance existing initiatives such as auxiliary policing, training bylaw officers, and the First Nations Community Policing Program.

A final budgetary note, a small amount of funding, namely \$74,000, has been added to the department's base budget to administer the Access to Information and Privacy Act, which came into force January 1, 1997. In conclusion, as I mentioned earlier, Mr. Chairman, this year's main estimates have been developed in anticipation of a strategic plan being developed. We expect that the highlight of the strategic plan to be a new approach to community justice and corrections. We also believe that this plan will enhance initiatives already underway. The proposed approach represents an opportunity for justice and corrections to develop a clear role within communities and to contribute to community development.

In addition, it is intended to provide the most appropriate, effective and culturally relevant forms of justice and corrections for offenders, for victims and for the communities. Mr. Chairman, the focus of these main estimates and our strategic plan is to make the justice system more relevant to the people that come in contact with it. In addition, we hope to begin to address the tremendous growth that has so

dramatically affected the justice system in the last few years. Thank you, that concludes my opening remarks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Honourable Mr. Ng. I will now ask the chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Programs for the comments of the committee review of the department estimates. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Justice

Corrections

In every department or organization, there are areas which are clearly under stress. These are the areas which the committee has focused its attention on during our many meetings over the past year. During the review of the 1997/98 business plan of the Department of Justice, the current approach to

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corrections is certainly one of those flash points. As we look at the critical overcrowding of our correctional facilities, the types of crimes and the growing young population, the need for some innovation is clear. We have talked about actions to prevent crime but prevention measures take time. In order to address the crime rate, we need to address social problems like low education levels, alcohol and drug abuse, high unemployment, and lack of adequate housing. While in the end, it is people who are responsible for committing crimes, these external factors contribute to the self-esteem of individuals and the high incidence of crime. It is unclear whether we can wait for preventive measures to have an effect.

In the business plan, the department has outlined three different approaches which should take the pressure off the existing facilities. If these approaches fail, we may have no alternative but to consider a new facility. At this point, with limited funding, we hope the following approaches will relieve the stress on the correctional facilities.

Wilderness Camps and Alternate Placements

The first component is to make greater use of wilderness camps and other alternate placements, particularly for adult offenders and repeat young

offenders. Not only does this lessen the burden on the correctional facilities, it also addresses concerns raised by Members about the influence that doing time in one of the large facilities has on young adults and on their ability to ever truly "come home" again. This approach provides first time offenders with positive influences rather than the negative influences which they are exposed to in our institutions. The standing committee supports this initiative and the capital dollars in the budget directed towards this. We see this as a primary health and safety need.

Correctional Centre Programming

The second component is developing more programming for those within the correctional facilities, working towards rehabilitation rather than just warehousing people. Hopefully these efforts will help reduce the number of individuals who become repeat offenders. We are pleased to hear about programs, like the sweat lodge at YCC and counselling with elders, which support healing and reform in a culturally sensitive way.

We understand that our facilities are not supposed to just punish someone but should give them a chance to turn their life around with appropriate supports. However, there is a perception among some Members and the public that those in the centres have a far better life behind bars than they would on the outside. In any efforts made in the correctional facilities, the department must find a careful balance between rehabilitation and providing a situation which encourages people to re-offend.

Community Justice

The third component in reducing the pressures on the correctional facilities, and the one with the most long-term potential, is to promote community justice. Unfortunately, this is the component that is the most undefined.

Community justice is crucial. The historical way we have dealt with offenders has not been effective in addressing repeat offenders or in discouraging crime. It has not provided a continuum for the offenders who make great strides while in prison programming but who fall back to old patterns as soon as they get home and lack the support to follow a new path. Our current system lacks a way to let the community and victims deal with what has happened and move on.

Community justice can address these weaknesses in the process of locking people up. It concerns us that

there is no specific plan to address community justice and further, that the department's strategic plan, which should address community justice in some way, will be another 10 months in the making.

There are individuals committing crimes who could be better dealt with through community justice options. There are communities ready to take on more responsibility for this process. They continue to wait because the government does not have a formal process in place. There is a desperate need for a framework, a program, guidelines, a handbook - some form of support and guidance to help communities take this critical program on.

Recommendation No. 14

The Standing Committee on Social Programs recommends that clear support material be prepared to assist communities in developing local community justice options.

When we first received the business plans, we were concerned with the apparent lack of consistency in trying to advance community justice while cutting two community justice specialists. However, with more information, it appears that efforts to promote community justice will not be impaired by the loss of these two positions.

Diversion

The department mentioned that diversion is taking place. The standing committee strongly supports the increased use of diversion. We are concerned that there seems to be a discrepancy or a crack in the approval process for diversion options. While the department indicated that there is a way for the RCMP to find out about diversion opportunities, that is not the message the committee is getting from communities. The process seems to be fairly loose and unstructured. Developing a way to recognize diversion options and communicate that to the RCMP and crown counsel should not be difficult.

Recommendation No. 15

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Community Supervision

There is funding in the budget for community supervision. The Minister has indicated that this funding will, in part, allow other community residents to take on this function, freeing up the community social workers time to concentrate on social work.

The committee believes that a one window approach to justice in each community is the best way to go, both for practical and financial reasons. While we recognize that community justice committees need to support both the victim and the offender, we do not see the conflict in these committees also taking on responsibility for community supervision. It helps to provide a continuum of service at the community level and recognizes the reality that in most communities there is a small core of people who eventually take on all of these types of responsibilities anyway.

Aboriginal Staff

Members are concerned about the lack of aboriginal people in parts of the department. There is a need to be proactive in encouraging our youth to consider careers in the legal profession in particular. While offering articling positions to graduating law students is very helpful, more should be done to get students to pursue career choices in the justice system.

Coroner's Office

The committee notes the reductions in the Coroner's Office. Last year, additional funds were allocated to this office to address a backlog of inquests. We understand most of the backlog has been dealt with. As we noted last year, the network of coroners is a valuable community resource. Training is very important and Members have heard positive comments from coroners about the training that is being provided. We encourage the chief coroner to be creative in dealing with the limited resources available, recognizing the importance of support for community coroners.

Policing Support

FAS/FAE Offenders

Recommendation No. 16

The Standing Committee on Social Programs recommends that the Department of Justice develop an FAS/FAE awareness training program for correctional staff.

Family Law Mediation

The committee lends its support to the move to require mediation on family law issues before they move into the court system. Mediation is less expensive and leaves matters more in the hands of the individuals involved. Hopefully, this will ease some of the load on the court system.

Transfers

In the capital budget, vehicle replacement is of concern to us. In the past, vehicle replacement was handled by Public Works and Services. This function was eliminated and the existing fleet transferred to departments with no additional capital resources. While there was a reduced amount of maintenance funding transferred, departments are now having to budget for an item they were not responsible for in the past. The apparent savings for Public Works and Services when this happened seem to be a false savings as these amounts now start to appear in the budgets of other departments.

Another area of government change which was not supposed to add additional resources was the transfer of human resources. We are aware of situations in other departments where positions have been changed into personnel positions. Justice is adding two additional new personnel officers to headquarters to support the extra workload. Again, what was a small reduction in one area may have become a much larger expenditure hidden across the government. These two examples show the potential impact of changes made without adequate analysis.

Recommendation No. 17

The Standing Committee recommends that the government provide an analysis of the impact of these two changes (vehicle pool and personnel services) in terms of real savings.

Statute Review

The Minister indicated that the current Director of Legislation will be the Statute Review Commissioner in addition to his current responsibilities. When we reviewed the bill on the Statute Review Commission, Members were told that this was a huge job and the work was already behind. Given the heavy legislative calendar that is apparently in front of us in the final two years of the term, Members are concerned about the ability of a single individual to do justice to both the Director and Commissioner's positions simultaneously. The committee hopes the proposed approach works and will be monitoring the Statute Review progress.

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Making Effective Use of Funds

Every department has had to make reductions to their programs. While funding remains in place, we expect

that its use will be maximized. In 1996/97, there was a pool of one-time capital funding to assist communities in establishing or upgrading alternate placements and wilderness camps. We are dismayed to learn that as of February 12th, 1997, with only six weeks left in the 1996/97 budget, the one-time funding of almost \$1 million had still not been allocated to specific projects. When we are in difficult financial times, it is critical that the limited funds we do have are put to good use as quickly as possible.

That concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. I would now like to ask Minister Ng if he would like to have witnesses present?

HON. KELVIN NG:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Does the committee agree the Minister can have witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. Can you bring in the witnesses, Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms.

I would like to ask the Minister if he could introduce his witnesses please.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left, Don Cooper, deputy minister. To my immediate right, Nora Sanders, assistant deputy minister. To the far right, Kim Schofield, budget analyst. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome to the committee. I now open the floor to general comments. I have Mr. Erasmus and Mr. Picco in that order. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It does not appear as though we have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I will ring the bell, Mr. Erasmus, until we have a quorum.

-- Bell

You may proceed, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few brief comments. The first is that I am pleased to see the department has added some money to the community justice corrections budget to enhance the community supervision program. This is an area that needs to be looked at and needs to be added to. The wilderness camps will help to provide an alternative to many first-time offenders, particularly a system to make better choices in their life and if they would have been subjected to the influence of people who have been in the justice system for some time. I am also glad to see that they are putting some money into the corrections capital budget. I know that the system, particularly here in Yellowknife, has been extremely overcrowded. That does add increased wear and tear on the buildings because they are over-used. This money is not enough, but at least it will be a start.

Mr. Chairman, I had indicated the other day that this government should look at implementing some type of a legal program, which could probably be called a legal assistance program, which could be in the area of a one-year or two-year legal program, perhaps done through the college or perhaps done through the hospices of another university linked with another university somehow. It should be classified as post-secondary education. The need for this is clear. There are no aboriginal judges in the north. There are only a few aboriginal lawyers. Even less aboriginal lawyers are practising and the JPs that we have now, as well as the courtworkers that we have now, have very little formal training. In the communities we have the opportunity to change this.

This government also has a community justice program that they are espousing and that they hope to get off the ground. If we had some formal training available for people, we could get our courtworkers a minimum amount of formal training. As well, we could certainly make a big leap towards the community justice, getting it off the ground. At the present time

there is a federal program called Pathways which is for training for aboriginal people. The communities all receive this funding. This government should take the opportunity before this funding evaporates because I believe it is only in existence for two more years. This government should move towards a partnership with the communities, perhaps through Justice and the Department of Education and the communities using the Pathways funding, to put in place a law program that would incorporate the normal courses that you could find in the south in a legal assistance program, as well as programs that would be necessarily strategic to the north, such as community wellness and community justice communities. All the rest of these things that we are trying to get in the north could be included in a program. I would urge the Minister to look at this.

As I said before, the way I would see it is that it would be linked with a university so that once a person did do their two years here, they could be qualified to enter directly into law school if they wished. Of course, they would have a jump on other law students because they would already have taken some law here, but because of the way the law schools are very structured, they would not allow those courses to go towards your law degree I think that they could certainly use it to get into law school, particularly if a lot of these people have already worked in the legal area as courtworkers or JPs or whatever. They would be accepted with open arms into law school. I do know a lot of the community people and I would be willing to work with the Minister's staff to try to get this off the ground, perhaps as a pilot project in the Treaty 8 area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. I now recognize the Member from Iqaluit, the honourable Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just some general comments again about the Department of

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Justice. With the increased level of inmates in our facilities, I think we should start off by saying that all correctional staff have to be congratulated on working through very difficult and over-crowded situations. The facilities were built for certain levels and I think in most cases it has been exceeded. I think the department needs to review capital planning to

increase the size of the facilities and review some of the work already done with alternate referral of young offenders. I would also reiterate that there is only one judge living in Nunavut. Again, I would ask the Minister to appoint a judge to be based in Nunavut before the run up to April 1, 1999. I guess I am disappointed in last year with the reductions to the young offenders' camp because of the low enrolment referrals. I think this department should be stressing more referrals of young offenders to these camps. It seems to have worked. I followed up on the camp last year in my riding. It would seem that when the people were referred to that camp, they were not repeat offenders. The rate for repeat offenders actually had dropped. I think the system should be referring more young offenders to those types of camps instead of incarcerating them in communities or young correctional facilities. I would also say to the Minister and the staff that referral of even some of the petty crimes of six to eight months could be in those types of camps and they have worked. I would like the Minister and his staff to look at that.

In the opening comments by the Minister, the Minister said that the sheriff's office will be downsized and a closer link with the registry office will be made to improve efficiencies. I have some concerns there, Mr. Chairman, because I do not know what they mean by downsizing the sheriff's office. For example, in our community right now or in the Baffin region, the only way to get a bailiff to go into a community and to seize something is if the by-law people from Iqaluit can fly in. By downsizing even more, I would be very concerned that we would not be able to meet the demand, so I would like to see a copy of that report or what your plan is to downsize the sheriff's office.

I also note that the department is studying the feasibility of privatizing court reporter services. I have a problem with that also because I think you need standardization, especially in legal interpretation and using your department right now, I think the Department of Justice has done a very good job. I commend them on the training that you already give to your local and your legal interpreters. If you go to privatizing court reporter services, you might opt to take the cheapest interpreter or translator and not necessarily the person who was trained originally. That is a major concern here.

On the budget for the coroner's program, it has been reduced by \$150,000, primarily to offset the incremental funding that was added to the 1996/97 main estimates to reduce backlogs. In the Minister's own words, he says that assuming that the strategy

produced the desired results. Assuming that, I think before we cut any more funding in that department including the incremental amount, we should study it to see. We cannot assume. When we start to assume things, I think that is some of the problems that we have had. I would ask the Minister to re-examine that or maybe give us an update on it.

On the departmental work with the existing initiatives, such as auxiliary policing, the training of bylaw officers and the First Nations Community Policing Program, I commend the department for that. I think that is a good initiative and I am pleased to see that taking place.

In conclusion, on the Access to Information and Privacy Act, I notice that the department has put in \$74,000 to help the department administer the Access to Information and Privacy Act. Having been a part of the subcommittee last year in bringing this Act forward and having been asking for a disclosure at all levels of this government for the past 15 months, I am pleased to see that one department has some money that is up front and mentioned in the Minister's statement. With that, I look forward to the comments on my comments from the Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. I have the floor open to general comments. Are there any further general comments? If there are no further general comments, we will then move on to page 7-8, directorate, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know how many people at the headquarters level here are affirmative action status?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information I have is not broken out into respective total headquarters. What I have available that I am willing to pass on is by division. For example, with corrections division, of affirmative action individuals we have 121 out of 219; of the directorate, we have four out of six; for finance, we have six out of 12; policy and planning, there are

seven out of 10; legal services board, three out of five; legal division, there are two out of 19; legislative division, there are two out of 12; legal registries, there are 10 out of 17; community justice, there are five out of eight; in courts, there are 17 out of 47, Mr. Chairman, that are affirmative action employees. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Erasmus. I will give the Minister the opportunity to respond to general comments. So could I ask you to hold your second question? Thank you. Honourable Mr. Ng, would you like to respond to the comments by the Members?

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I appreciate the comments of the Members. In respect to the issue about trying to improve some of the training levels for getting northerners into legal careers, there is some work being done, particularly in the Nunavut side, with some of the additional training monies that have been put forward. They are developing a legal studies program, a community corrections and community justice program. It will either be a certificate or diploma program. I recognize that there is, as Mr. Erasmus says, a lack of aboriginal professional lawyers practising now. Certainly, it is something that we would encourage, although for us it is difficult to be directly involved in the funding. We would provide some of the support, as we have in the past, for articling and possible career opportunities if individuals got to that stage. In respect to the facilities, yes, we do recognize as I said in my opening comments, there is a perennial problem with overcrowding that we are trying to

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address as adequately as possible, given that no matter what kind of emphasis we put on alternatives and diversions, there are always going to be certain numbers of individuals that are going to require incarceration. It is not an ideal situation when, just based on the demographics of our population and the crime rate, which is relatively high in proportion to all other jurisdictions, there is always that pressure on our correctional facilities. We have some short term dollars in this current budget that will address some of the facility requirements, but certainly in the longer term scale of things there are going to be some major investments required that I think will cause this government and future governments in both territories

some problems in identifying and securing and putting those facility needs on stream.

In the area that Mr. Picco raised about the court system, particularly in the Nunavut side right now, that is lacking in the numbers. There continues to be work in that area of trying to have a judicial system up and operating, hopefully, prior to April 1, 1999. We continue to work in respect to trying to increase some of our affirmative action employment opportunities, work on a plan as Members of this House have all articulated at various times. There is a real need to put more emphasis and more meat behind trying to develop something that is workable, particularly on the western side of things, Mr. Chairman. So with that, I guess I will leave it until we get into more specifics of the budget discussions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus, your second question.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had looked at some previous numbers concerning the senior management of this government. The amount of long-term northerners, whether aboriginal or non-aboriginal, the amount of non-northern women that were employed by this government equalled the amount of long term northerners. It really shocked me because we have been spending millions and millions of dollars for the last twenty years on education, sending kids to school. For a long time, aboriginal students were going for free and now they get forgivable loans. Aboriginal students get grants. They do not have to look at forgiveness or anything like that. I know that the amount of students this year is well over a thousand. What I would like to know is how many of these affirmative action status employees are actually long-term northerners, whether they are aboriginal or non-aboriginal?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

The Honourable Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can ask the Member to repeat that question. I was not sure if you were speaking specifically on indigenous non-aboriginal northerners. Is that what you are referring to, or a total of both aboriginal and non-aboriginal? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Clarification, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This indigenous non-aboriginal business is for the birds. Why do they just not say non-aboriginal and aboriginal? Anyway, what I would like to know is, if he has that breakdown that he is talking about, the amount of aboriginal people and the non-aboriginal people long term. I guess that is indigenous, I do not know. Indigenous non-aboriginal people that are in those numbers that he provided us with.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not believe the category indigenous non-aboriginal is for the birds, quite frankly. I take offence at the Member referring to it that way. It is the way it is listed now under the Affirmative Action Policy. There is a category for indigenous non-aboriginal individuals, people that are born in the Northwest Territories. The statistics that I gave to the honourable Member and to this House before was inclusive of all individuals that are qualified under the Affirmative Action Policy as it stands now with this government. I will give the Member a copy if he wants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I said it was for the birds is because when you speak about indigenous peoples, you are speaking about aboriginal peoples such as myself and the Inuit people sitting over there and the Dene and the Metis. Somehow or other this indigenous non-aboriginal business got included in this, so that is why I said it. It is terminology. Maybe I should not have said it was for the birds, but I think they should revisit the terminology. I appreciate the Minister has that information that he indicated. What I want to know is if he has that information broken down so we can weed out the people who are not long-term northerners. Does he have numbers for the indigenous aboriginal

people and the indigenous non-aboriginal people within his department?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, I do. As I said, the indigenous aboriginal people listed under the Affirmative Action Policy, now there are 104 employees out of 355, and for the indigenous non-aboriginal, which means that you are either born here or have spent half your life here in the Northwest Territories, to my understanding in the policy, there are 56 individuals out of 355. But to expedite things, Mr. Chairman, I will provide the honourable Members with the statistics that I have right now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Erasmus, do you have any further questions?

MR. ERASMUS:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of those, I think it was the legal division where the Minister had indicated there are two out of 19 affirmative action people. How many are above the bottom of the ladder?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

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HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am not certain about the two individuals, I do not have that specific of a listing here of the employees by classification. I will obtain the information and provide it on those two specifics the honourable Member is speaking of.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus. We are on Justice, directorate, page 7-8, operations and maintenance. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like the Minister to elaborate on, if he could, the strategic plan that is in

the works. When is the anticipated completion date? I notice that it is going to include division, which is a key issue. I would be interested to know if the Minister could just elaborate on the content. Is this done internally? Those type of issues, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Minister Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, originally when this was brought forward, it was with the intent of having it finalized in the fall of this year. Because of the fact that division planning has been accelerated to some extent, I think we are going to have to look at the time lines of possibly accelerating the strategic planning process. Right now, quite frankly, we have not determined fully whether it is going to be a full internal exercise or facilitated by somebody from the outside. That is one of the things that we will be meeting on next week, Mr. Chairman. Of course, we want to try to roll in exactly, not what is happening in developing a justice and corrections judicial system for both east and west, but how some of our community justice initiatives would fit into the overall process in view of trying to create more emphasis on diversion and alternative programming. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To remind myself, we are on the directorate. We have Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Picco and Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The division plans, I believe, we are targeting the latter part of May and the early part of June. Is the Minister going to be able to separate that one component and move ahead with the rest of the strategic plan? It just seems that two months to do a comprehensive strategic plan for a department as complex as Justice is not a lot of time given all the other initiatives and issues on the table that we are trying to address.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The Honourable Minister, Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would anticipate that with the division plan, obviously that would take a higher precedent right now in the overall strategic planning exercise, because of the fact there are some time lines to try to bring back some concrete plans to be presented in committee and to the Assembly, so that would be one aspect of the strategic planning process that would be accelerated. But we have to remember the overall goal of the whole exercise is to try to set some long range plans on where the departments, both east and west, would be heading in delivering judicial and correctional services to our constituents, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you separate the division issue, is the Minister contemplating an approach similar to the one currently being used by the Department of Health and Social Services, where they brought in the services of qualified private people to do the kind of strategic planning that Health needed? The assumption being that the strategic plan is going to be dealing with the same kind of fundamental issues in terms of long term direction, organizational goals and the planning component.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, a decision has not been finalized yet as to what mechanism we are going to use for facilitating the development of the strategic plan. We are looking at the different options of having it in-house, but having an outside facilitator to co-ordinate it. We are looking at the possibility of having somebody from the outside coming in and actually do it for us as well, with input from the staff. So those are the things that I am hoping to get clarified next week as we move further down the road with this exercise, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The concern I have is that if there is not a strategic plan currently in place that could be updated or modified, the wheels of government grind very slowly and very finely in some cases. A strategic planning exercise left to government could drag out well past division and may possibly be out of date by the time it is complete. So the question to the Minister is, will he be updating us as to the decision when it is made so we can have an idea of how it is going to be done and who is going to do it? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I would have no problems with updating Members on where we are heading with this, once some of the time lines and the logistics are worked out, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate, I have Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just going back to my opening remarks, I see that we are on the directorate, so maybe it could be appropriate to ask these questions here because the Minister did not respond to them in his comments to the opening remarks. I would take this opportunity to say that it is a great pleasure to be a Member of this Legislative Assembly with individuals like Mr. Erasmus, who is an aboriginal trained lawyer, who has the degrees and who has worked very hard and brings that point of view

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forward every day in discussion, so I would thank Mr. Erasmus. He paid me five dollars to say that!

-- Applause

Now, getting to the meat of the question at hand. Mr. Chairman, I asked earlier about the sheriff's office being downsized and the closer link with the registry office. I gave you my concerns on that. I wonder if the Minister could just briefly go over that area, because I think it does fall under the directorate, but we are looking at O and M instead of going right through the budget. That is my first question, the sheriff's office.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Picco, you probably owe him ten! Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, basically what we are looking at doing is eliminating one of the deputy sheriff positions and some of the administration positions in the sheriff's office providing that senior administrative support through the court registries office, which I understand is how it works in a lot of other jurisdictions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in a previous life, I used to do a lot of registering of documents over at the registries office and promissory notes, so I understand that part of it. My fear, as I said earlier, would be that at the present time when you are doing seizures through the sheriff's office and you have to get the local bylaw people and some of the other functions, if you are letting those administrative people go, then I think there will be more work. So I would request again, as I asked earlier to the Minister, if I could see the paper on the evaluation and the reasons why that was done. Maybe he could provide it to me after this meeting?

Going on to my next question then, which was the privatization of the court reporter services, I have some very strong feelings on that because I think we have trained some good people in that area. I think if you go and start privatizing this, you might be looking at hiring the cheapest people and not necessarily the best people and the people that we have trained. So I wonder what the reaction from the Minister is on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, for the sheriff's function, the plans for those changes were done in consultation with the courts and the staff that work there, so there is no plan or evaluation in the strictest form of what the Member is referring to. For

the court reporters, we are looking at the possibility of using technology, audio tape recordings instead of the actual court reporters that will be present there. I understand that a large majority of other jurisdictions operate that way now, so we would not be breaking new ground in that area, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still have some concerns with the sheriff's office, but I will not belabour the point here. I will bring it up later with the Minister. On the court privatization, I still have some concerns. For example, in our region, where Inuktitut is one of the main languages of the court system, I wonder if the privatization includes the interpretation or the translation of the transcripts in Inuktitut?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, understanding the proceedings in court is an integral part of the whole judicial system, so there would be no plans to impact on the availability of language services for individuals that would be before the courts, so the interpreting aspect would not be part of this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just for clarification on the coroner's program, I see that the department is making the assumption that the strategy had reached its desired results for 1996/97 and thus they could take the \$150,000 hit to offset the incremental funding, and assuming that the strategy produced the desired results, we all know what the assumption did, it did not have the gumption to keep going. My fear here, assuming that the strategy produced, by cutting before you have some mechanisms in place to check that, I think it is a serious move on this government's part, moving way too fast in an area.

So I would say to you, Mr. Chairman, and say to the Minister again, if he will explain to me what he meant in his opening remarks by assuming that the strategy produced the desired results? Have they actually checked the desired results of the coroner's program? I understand that the coroner is trying to train more and more people, and more community people are taking on this responsibility. I just do not know how the coroner is going to do it with \$150,000 less, assuming that the strategy produced is our results. Maybe we could clarify that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as some Members will recall, there were some incremental dollars added to the coroner's budget last year of approximately \$450,000 to address the shortfalls in the coroner's program. Training of coroners was one aspect of it and there was a significant backlog of inquests at that time. A lot of the backlogs of those inquests have been addressed now. That was one of the reasons for bringing down some of that funding to the coroner's office. The intent is there would still be money that would be there for the training of coroners so at the end of it support to the community-based coroners would not be impacted, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that chief coroner, Jo MacQuarrie, and the regional

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coroner staff should get some accommodation for the work that they have done in the past in a very stressful situation. I support them a hundred percent. For my final supplementary question on the capital area, the Minister was good enough to take a tour of the facilities in my riding in Iqaluit. We went through the Baffin Correctional Centre and the Young Offenders Correctional Centre facility and we did see the amount of work that had to be done there. They are at the point, especially the BCC, as the YCC where it is overflowing. They are above capacity. We

noted when we were there, some people from town had come and were actually making contact with the inmates with BCC on the grounds because there was no fence separating the townspeople from getting close to the inmates. We discussed the need for a fence around the facility, similar to most jurisdictions in the country. I am wondering, on capital, is there a five-year plan for the BCC to try to upgrade it, maybe enlarge it because of the over-accommodation levels of the inmates and the fence that we had discussed quite a lot between myself and Mr. Ng? Also, I should note, Mr. Ng, the YCC here, I had an opportunity to speak to about 40 inmates. I think that facility is also overcrowded, so I would like to see what the capital plans are. Maybe the Minister could tell me if the capital plans are for enlarging these facilities in Yellowknife and Iqaluit and specifically the fence in Iqaluit, and the facility itself? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister, Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there currently are no plans for enlarging any of the facilities. Recognizing there is an overcrowding problem in all the facilities, I see that the honourable Member understands that. What we have done is the department was fortunate to get some money re-based this year. We were fortunate in a small aspect in that we were allowed, because of that re-basing, to put some dollars in a capital program for this 1997/98 year that you have before you, to try to address some of the immediate needs. Of those immediate needs, a fence for the Iqaluit facility was not on the list, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Directorate. I have the honourable Member for Kivallivik, Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I only wish I had the same problems as Mr. Picco has. I do not have any facilities to be overcrowded. For some time now, some of the elders and various interested parties from my two communities have been seeking the mandate to administer their own justice through using outpost camps and so on. Can the Minister tell me what plans, if any, and the associated funding that they

may be looking at to assist the various communities in looking after their own justice through the use of outpost camps?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as you know we have approximately a million dollars this current fiscal year for some capital contributions for operators to establish outpost or wilderness camps to try to take in some of the individuals that would have qualified for those alternative programs. I cannot remember what the specifics are of what came out of the Keewatin. There were a couple of proposals. I do not have the specifics here with me, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Directorate, Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know in the past there was a fair bit of discussion regarding a women's correctional centre for Nunavut. At one point there was consideration it may be located in the Keewatin. Can the Minister tell me what the present status is on this issue? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, currently in developing our division and strategic plan, I think it will confirm what we already know. On the Nunavut side of things, there is certainly a shortage of incarcerated bed spaces, whether it is for female or male offenders, whether adult or young offenders. Quite frankly, there are no capital dollars within our current government that can address the establishment of new facilities. There are also no O and M dollars. That was part of the problems in the past, in trying to establish the facilities. At some point, they got the okay for capital dollars, but not for the O and M side. As a result, those community-based correctional facilities did not get off the ground, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it fair to say there is no long term, five-year capital plan for dealing with these types of institutions and associated problems?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess I could say that although we recognize certainly there is a need, never mind for new facilities but to address the deterioration and the age of our current facilities, I think it would be safe to say that there is not the capital dollars that taps any of that planning right now that would facilitate any major expansions or renovations or any new facilities, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. The honourable Member for Kivallivik, Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would think that in a lot of our long term planning, we do not have the capital dollars available and we probably know that we will not have it. I would think it would just be logical to plan, at least, for the future knowing that we have problems now with our present in correctional centres with overcrowding and poor conditions. I just think that it would be a normal process that we would have a five-year plan in place and hopefully, when we get ourselves out of this financial mess we are in, we will then at least be in a position that we could move on these. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you want to respond?
Thank you.

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HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated in our strategic plan, it will just confirm the needs that are

out there. It will confirm the lack of or deficient amount of capital dollars to address those needs and from there we are going to have to try to re-think our strategy on how we are going to address those future needs, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Directorate, Mr. O'Brien. I have Mr Roland. Thank you.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My friends here seem to be having some fun, what little friends I might have. Mr. Chairman, the Minister earlier discussed a little bit about the strategic plans. I would like know if there is a term of reference made out for these?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. The Honourable Minister Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have some draft terms of reference, but those are the kinds of issues, like I said, that I wanted to go over with the senior management of the department next week, to try to put some finality to that and establish where we are going from there, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Minister have a timeline as to when this would be brought forward to the committee?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would think it would probably be the latter part of March or certainly in the early part of April once things are finalized, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. I have Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I am concerned about the strategic plan and the fact that there appears to be no capital plan for operations like the Yellowknife Correctional Institute. Additionally, I am concerned about the repatriation of the many inmates we have in southern Canada. Apparently, we have some hundred or some. It would seem to me it would make sense to continue to press the federal government to look at repatriating those to the Northwest Territories and having the federal government look at funding a possible facility here in the territories. I believe there are some 60 inmates in the Bowden Institution quite close to Calgary. This no doubt costs a great deal of money, but there are a lot of problems with that, specifically from the sense the inmates do not get country foods the way they could be taken care of here in the north, and on go the complications.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ootes, you could also bring that line of questioning up on page 7-13, where community justices, corrections is. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I thought we were going to move to 7-13. I would agree with the Member in a lot of respects. If we could repatriate as many federal inmates as possible, I think it would be beneficial for them if the programming were available in the Northwest Territories. It would keep them more accessible to some of the family members if they are closer to home. We do have to recognize, even if we did have the space to repatriate as many as possible, there would still be some inmates that would require to remain down south because they are of a more serious nature of an offender. They would require some programs that might not be available that require some medium to higher security and secured facilities for their incarceration. Having said that, I have no problems, I have said in the past, of trying to facilitate having federal inmates repatriated to the north. The problem we have right now is we do not have the space in our facilities. We are having problems dealing with our territorial numbers, let alone the 20 or so federal inmates that we still continue to keep even though we are short on space for our own inmates, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This falls into the whole area of strategic planning and also the capital plan of where we are going with this whole area. I am concerned there is no strategic plan and I wonder if the Minister could tell me why we do not have a strategic plan in this whole justice area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot say why they have not in the past. I can only speak for the last year, just less than a year that I have had responsibility for the department. We have recognized that we should have a strategic plan. That is why we are undergoing this exercise, to try and develop one and have one finalized as quickly as we can, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. I see the addition of a great many dollars in this particular department and that concerns me from the fact that the reviews are made by the committees. If there is no long-term plan in place, do we face that problem every year? How do we know next year we are not going to face an abrupt necessity to increase this budget by 10 percent/15 percent because of difficulties because no strategic plan is in place? I would have thought the Minister would have taken this in hand when he moved into the department to say okay, where is this strategic plan? It is basic understanding that it should exist. I appreciate his comment that it did not exist previously, which to my mind is very bad administration,

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but it does not help any to carry on and not address that particular problem immediately.

I guess my question for the Minister is, will he look at doing this immediately and place some priority on this? Let us take YCI, which is running at 115 percent

occupancy. There are tremendous problems for staff, for inmates, for everybody concerned. By having a plan, it can all be addressed. It can be addressed through the capital plan and identify the particular problem areas and then for us here as Members, we can have some appreciation of why we are introducing and increasing the budget for this particular department. Mr. Chairman, the reality we are facing is we have tremendous problems here in the territories socially and we are taking money away. We have a desperate need in a lot of areas. I think it is ultimately an onus on the part of the Minister to push his department to ensure there is a strategic plan. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I agree with the Member and that is why we are trying to place such a high emphasis on this strategic plan, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the Minister also ensure that he looks at the needs and develops a capital plan for the facilities that we have here in the territories, such as YCI?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Ng. I am on page 7-8, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$3,516,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just looking at the information the Minister had provided us concerning the affirmative action status employees within the department. In the legal division where the lawyers are, there are no aboriginal people, one indigenous non-aboriginal person, which means there is only one long-term northerner in the whole division. As I had indicated in my reply to the Minister's opening statement, perhaps it was time to look at instituting some type of a legal assistance program in conjunction with the communities who now have Pathways dollars. This would be a good way to get aboriginal and long-term northerners into the legal area, so they can go on to become lawyers and also judges in the future. I would like to know if the department has considered such a program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Minister Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had indicated earlier to the honourable Member, I think on the Nunavut side of things there is some work being done, but I can say primarily as a result of some of the human resource training funds that came to the Nunavut side of things with the settlement of the Land Claims Agreement, I am hoping, if it proves successful, some of that stuff can roll over to the western side of things. We would be more than happy to work with Arctic College in assisting them to develop programs if the demand is there. We would be willing to assist in recruiting individuals that have an interest in the legal profession. Of course, not working for government is not everybody's ball game. There are a lot of individuals who shy away from that. To summarize, yes we would be interested in trying to assist any groups or organizations that are trying to support increasing the involvement of northerners in the legal profession, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think to date, as the Minister had indicated, the Minister's involvement basically is to provide a position for Arctic students. I

should not say to date because I do know in the past, through the civil service training which has been basically gutted, there were a few aboriginal people trained through that to become lawyers, but that is no longer available. I think in order to get the community justice program working properly, some type of a legal training program is in order. I do not mean just to work for the government, although of course it would be preferable if people did work for the government. Obviously, it is always better to have a government work force that is representative of the population that it services. I think we also have to look at the fact that we need to have aboriginal people in the legal area if we want to have aboriginal and long-term northerners sitting as judges. We will never have that unless we get more people to become lawyers first.

The Minister, of course, has not ruled out working with groups, but I think we cannot just sit back and watch and see what happens in Nunavut because Pathways dollars are only going to be there for a couple of more years. I think this government has to take the initiative and say let us do something. Would the Minister be willing to direct someone from his staff to take the initiative and try and get the ball rolling in the west as well as in the east, where they have been lucky enough to be hit with \$50 million and excess of that. I cannot remember offhand what it was right now. It has been a long six weeks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng, would you like to respond?

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think I have said yes, we would try and work with anybody, any organizations or individuals who would be trying to get any kind of programming or assistance off the ground. I think in our comprehensive Affirmative Action Employment Plan that all departments are currently working on that. We can address some of the deficiencies and some of those needs, particularly in the western areas, which have not been as successful as the Nunavut side in the recruitment and retention of aboriginal northerners, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that the Minister is willing to work with groups that come forward, but I am not talking about someone waiting to come forward. What I am saying is the Pathways money is only going to be there for a very limited period of time and this government should come forward and approach or at least make overtures to people who have this money and see if they would be interested in such a program. Would the Minister be willing to do that as well or just wait for someone to approach?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. The Honourable Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, we would be willing to do that. Of course, one also has to recognize there are other programs through other institutions out there on a very broad perspective that have programs available for individuals wanting to get into a professional career of any kind. Our government does support the student financial assistance for a lot of northerners. Having said that, I would say yes to the Member, we would be willing to make overtures to groups in trying to develop any programs to assist any individual to get into any legal profession, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Total operations and maintenance, \$3,516,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Erasmus.

Committee Motion 36-13(4): Analysis of User Say/User Pay Initiative

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we move on, I do move that this committee recommends that the government provide an analysis of the impact of the user pay/user say initiative in terms of real savings

with respect to vehicle replacement and human resource functions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. The motion is being translated into the appropriate languages and is in order. To the motion. You may speak to the motion, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason we would like this to be done is because we do know that the budgets were reduced in a lot of areas where the user pay/user say has been implemented. We have no way of knowing whether the budgets were actually reduced too much or too little. We have no way of knowing whether user pay/user say initiative is actually saving us money or costing us more money than it used to cost us to have these particular services provided. In order to find out, we want this to be done and come back to us and then we can analyze it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. To the motion. No one else wishes to speak to the motion? I do not recognize a quorum. I will have to ring the bell for quorum. I recognize a quorum. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion? Down. All those opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Picco, you wish to say something?

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I did not hear anyone speaking to the motion. May I ask who introduced the motion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Picco, can I point them out?

MR. PICCO:

Just a further clarification, Mr. Chairman. I was in the Clerk's office conferring with the Clerk.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. You did have a point of order. We are on total operations and maintenance, \$3,516,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total expenditures, \$3,516,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 7-9, law enforcement, operations and maintenance, Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister indicate if there has been any movement on this issue of the possible closure of the one or two man detachments that are a concern by the RCMP?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it appears that it is not a high priority with the RCMP as it stands right now. We have not had any new information on that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate whether the department is still planning to proceed enthusiastically with initiatives for community policing? Are there alternatives that were talked about in terms of by-law officers, aboriginal policing issues as such? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister, Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we continue to pursue a lot of those options for providing

additional and support policing services in the communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister provide any specifics in terms of things that have

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been done or are being done and any kind of successes that have been realized in that particular area, given its critical nature and in the case of rampant crime, as we were talking about earlier? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, many Members know that about 24 by-law officers that went to the RCMP academy and graduated are on their way to becoming community peace officers. There are still some agreements to be finalized. I understand there are two communities that have the MOU signed off. I believe that would be Iqaluit and Broughton Island. The RCMP themselves have put on a concerted effort to up the numbers of aboriginal regular members. There have been 16 aboriginal people recruited since April 1st, 1996. The community constable pilot project is at the end in Fort Good Hope and Coral Harbour is currently at the end of the three year pilot project stage. It ends at the end of March, 1997. There are some discussions currently underway with the RCMP on what may continue from this program. There has been a territorial summer student program that hired 13 students this past summer throughout the Northwest Territories to work with the RCMP. Finally, in respect to the work with MACA that has paid for the training of those by-law officers to become police officers, there are discussions currently underway between ourselves and the federal government on the possibility of enhancing that program by allowing some of those individuals to become eligible under the Aboriginal Policing Initiative, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there initiatives at the other end of the spectrum, in terms of support to police such as the RCMP, so the RCMP are free to do more policing duties and not get tied down doing the more onerous administrative receptionist kind of duties?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Honourable Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that is more of an internal function within the RCMP themselves. They have been doing some changes of reconfiguring some of their administrative structures in preparation for division. They are trying to streamline the overall RCMP operations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was there not some situation or project with seniors to assist the police to do some basic receptionist paperwork kind of functions or people in the community that were civic minded? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand there was some work done with seniors here in Yellowknife as far as assisting some of the RCMP in handing out pamphlets and that type of thing. We are aware of the auxiliary policing program that they have in Yellowknife. The RCMP are planning to expand that program to a few other communities, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the whole question about law enforcement, a lot of communities such as Tsiigehtchic do not have a police detachment which they depend on. They have to depend on the detachment in Fort McPherson for their services. You made a statement in regards to people being trained, in the case of Fort Good Hope and other places where they are trained as community police officers. What is the chance of expanding that to those communities that do not have an RCMP based there to assist those communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, for communities that only had a by-law officer, I would think they would have a high priority in receiving upgraded training to enhance their abilities to provide support services to the community, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to Tsiigehtchic, it is a similar situation as Fort Good Hope, where it is a chartered community under the Charter Communities Act. In that case, it is something they have been asking for several years, if they cannot get a police officer to have some sort of a by-law officer with a little more power. Who do we contact to coordinate this between yourself and the community to ensure this happens?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have an individual seconded for a two year period from the RCMP, I believe it is Staff Sergeant Guenther Laube, who is our community policing liaison officer. He is the individual who will contact representatives of that community. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just on that individual, could you direct him through your office to go into Tsiigehtchic and have a meeting with them so we can look at this option? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, no problem there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. I have law enforcement, total operations and maintenance, \$28,265,000. Agreed?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total expenditures, \$28,265,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see that there are three categories, salaries and wages, grants and contributions, and other O and M. The other O and M is almost twice as much as the salaries and wages and grants and contributions put together.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I am on page 7-9, Mr. Erasmus. Is that the same page, Mr. Erasmus?

MR. ERASMUS:

Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I was on the next page. I thought we had already finished that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Total expenditures, \$28,265,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Legal Services Board, page 7-10. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I was saying, the other O and M on this is about \$3 million which is almost twice as much as the money for salaries and wages and the grants and contributions put together. Could we get an explanation of what this other O and M is?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are some of the staff lawyers for the Legal Services Boards as they are under contract and are not employees per se. Some of the fees for the private lawyers that provide defence as well. Of course, some of the affiliated travel and disbursements from both services, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand there is a new policy in the legal aid area, whereby people receive free legal aid up to a certain amount of hours and this is done without taking applications. I was wondering if the Minister could explain this new policy, since it does not seem as though any of the other Members are aware of this new policy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Ms. Sanders to speak to it because she is our Legal Aid Board representative of the department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Sanders.

MS. SANDERS:

What is being referred to is a new policy. There is an assumed eligibility for legal aid for people who are simply going to have a first appearance or some kind of summary proceeding before the court. Usually the lawyer is appearing on their behalf on a duty counsel basis anyway. Unless there is going to be a preliminary hearing or a trial, there is not the formal process. It is aimed at reducing the amount of paper work for the Legal Services Board, reducing the amount of paperwork that the clients and the lawyers have to complete, speeding up the process so they are not having to wait on an application in order to have a summary matter dealt with. It is also not an automatic thing. If someone is known to be well off with means to pay for their own lawyer, they are not necessarily provided with the free advice. It is simply the majority of people who are going to be eligible for legal aid are not put through the formal process. This is something new that was approved by the Legal Services Board just before Christmas. It is in its initial stages. It was following a report from a similar process in Manitoba. This was adapted to suit the situation here and it has been well received so far.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Ms. Sanders. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any other jurisdictions in Canada that do this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

MS. SANDERS:

Manitoba is doing it and we learned of it at a national meeting of legal aid plans where they gave a presentation. I am not aware of which other jurisdictions have followed that practice. We have a higher percentage of matters dealt with on a duty counsel basis than other jurisdictions because that is the practice when lawyers provide services on court circuit. They are paid a daily amount, not paid for each separate service that they perform on those occasions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Ms. Sanders. Let the record show Ms. Sanders replied to Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Erasmus, do you have further questions?

MR. ERASMUS:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did Manitoba indicate if they were saving any money through doing this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Ms. Sanders.

MS. SANDERS:

My understanding is they are feeling it is a better use of money. Their people are spending the time on the actual provision of legal services rather than the completion of the paperwork. I do not know if they have had it long enough to show whether they have saved positions or anything like that in their administrative branch.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Ms. Sanders. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there is a big difference in the case of duty counsel that goes to a smaller community and the ones that are actually in

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Yellowknife. Is this new system the same all over the place or is it different for Yellowknife and other areas? I know there are at least two courtworkers that sit in the courthouse every time there is court. Are we trying to do away with the courtworkers? What are they left to do with?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Ms. Sanders.

MS. SANDERS:

That is an excellent question. In fact, the intent is just the opposite. The intent is to free the courtworkers and the lawyers up to do the actual legal services, to meet with the clients, to help them prepare for their cases, to determine how they are going to plead and so on. The courtworker role, if it is to be expanding, would be on the end of actually providing those kinds of more active services, rather than simply doing the paperwork of completing application forms for the

system. It is intended to and it is being applied everywhere, not just outside of Yellowknife. It does mean there are some efficiencies for the court system as a whole, because they do not have to delay a matter from being dealt with until a legal aid application has been processed through the administrative process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Ms. Sanders. I now have to recognize Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My concern here under the Legal Services Act with lawyers was paralegals. There has been some concern over the past twelve months on the legal definition of paralegals. Are they included in the Legal Services Board for fees being paid? Are we paying paralegals or are they substantiated by qualifications in the Northwest Territorial judicial system? Is it legal to use a paralegal as a worker?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure where the Member is coming from because we do not use paralegals in our system, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you for that clarification because did I not see it on page 7-10 of Legal Services Board, "These programs apply legal aid services and courtworker and paralegal services." So if it is there, I thought we had them and I wanted to know what the definition is. Did we just drop them or did we just make a typo again? It has happened to me a couple of times now where coincidences keep popping up in different departments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Honourable Minister, Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The honourable Member brings forward a good point. I think it is in reference to the courtworker and paralegal services were assumed to be as one, where we use courtworkers primarily in our system, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you. That is as clear as mud. So is the courtworker then the same as a paralegal, is that what we are saying?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the intent and purposes of this, yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if the courtworker for all intents and purposes is a paralegal, because I do know there are some people interested and I think they have come forward to the department too, to the best of my recollection, paralegals from other jurisdictions who have moved to the Territories and wanted to practice their trade. If we designate a courtworker as a paralegal, would that open the doors for these paralegal services to come forward?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to Mr. Cooper. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no formal certification for paralegal. It is meant here in sort of the generic sense, someone who performs some of the functions that a lawyer might, but can not perform all of them. So it can refer to people who are courtworkers, whether part of the Mackenzie courtworkers or some other clinic throughout the territories. When the question about paying paralegals was first asked, I think we felt it referred to lawyers in private law firms charging for paralegal services, which I do not believe they do. I hope that answers the question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Mr. Picco, your last supplementary.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The mud is getting a little clearer. I guess my follow-up would be if there is no certification of the paralegal, is there formal certification for the courtworker? If there is formal certification for the courtworker, is that recognized and transferable to other jurisdictions? If not, why?

My point being, Mr. Chairman, is that our courtworkers, as Mr. Erasmus has rightly pointed out, could make that next step to becoming a full-fledge lawyer, if they could take the credit used in court and the time in there and then transfer that to one of our law schools. That is the point I am trying to make. Is there a certification for the courtworker. If not, why? If there is, is it transferable? If it is not, then why can we not transfer it? It is just a conjuncture of one question, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer it to Ms. Sanders. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Ms. Sanders.

MS. SANDERS:

There is no formal certification for courtworkers. They are employees of each of the regional boards and they are assigned duties according to the instructions of that board. In the Baffin, for example, the courtworkers provide a very wide range of services. A much wider range than courtworkers generally do in the south, which is unique to our area. There is not a formal certification. There is a move nationally to establish national training standards and so on for courtworkers. We are not sure how courtworkers in the north will fit into that, because our people are generally doing broader ranges of things and more specialized procedures than the people in the south are. The summer program that is planned this coming summer in connection with Nunavut Arctic College that Judge Brown has been instrumental in getting going, is intended to provide the kind of opportunity that the honourable Member is referring to by allowing courtworkers or others who have had similar work in the justice system to have an opportunity to have an intensive training program to determine whether they have either the aptitude or the wish to move on to law school and get some credit for that. We are involved in an advisory capacity with that project.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Ms. Sanders. I have total operations and maintenance, \$4,852,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, recognizing that this country has the best justice system in the world, also recognizing that there are times when the accused is able to pay for legal services, what criteria is used to determine when the accused requires the assistance of legal aid in the system? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is primarily a means test of any individual's income and

whether or not he can afford to have legal representation without legal aid. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it one of the requirements to check the bank account and property of the person being accused? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the applicant would be required to file a financial income report and it asks on this report what they have available as part of the determination of whether or not they would be eligible for legal aid. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. I have total operations and maintenance, \$4,852,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Getting back to new legal aid procedure, what happens if a courtworker fills out a legal aid application form before this person actually receives their free time? Would that person automatically be disqualified from receiving legal aid?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you. The application would be accepted and processed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, it would be processed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Ng. I have total operations and maintenance, \$4,852,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total expenditures, \$4,852,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. Page 7-11, lawyer support services, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$1,799,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. Total expenditures, \$1,799,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. Page 7-12, registries and court services, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$9,346,000. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, earlier today I asked about the sheriff's office which will be downsized and a closer link with the registry office will be made to improve the efficiency and realize the economy of scale. Mr. Chairman, the registry service at times has been quite busy over the past few years, especially with the backlog of division and transfer of titles and lands to the different communities and hamlets under the Nunavut final claim. If the

department reviewed that incident, if they have been transferring more responsibilities to the sheriff's office, are they basically down loading to the registry and court services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this economy is a scale with the court registries and not with

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the land registries division. No, we do not think it is an off-loading. As I indicated, there are some efficiencies through combining some of the administrative functions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Earlier, the Minister said under the area of the court registries service and the sheriff's office, I think you said that you would lay off one deputy sheriff and some administrative people. How many administrative people would you be cutting, the PYs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we are looking at one position, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$9,346,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total expenditures, \$9,346,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Justice of the Peace program, the JPs are first level of people of the judiciary. What percentage of the total amount of JPs are aboriginal people?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not have the percentages, but I do have the numbers. It will be easy to work out. Aboriginal females - 43, aboriginal males - 44, out of a total of 178 JPs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do these people receive training on a regular basis?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as often as possible. Both Chief Judge Halifax and Judge Bruser have just undergone some training sessions with the JPs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Did the Minister indicate that Judge Halifax does the training or, if not, who does do the training?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I indicated they have been involved in training sessions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Registries and court services. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A few years ago, the department had a JP co-ordinator or a person responsible for the JPs. Does the department have a person who is in the same capacity as Sam Stevens used to be a few years back?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the past it was only half a PY for that JP administrator position and the Chief Judge for the territorial court was responsible for overseeing that individual. They have asked that they be more involved in those training sessions for JPs and we have obliged them, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Registries and court services, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$9,346,000. Mr. Erasmus, final supplementary.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It does not seem to me that the Chief Justice would have enough time to look after the JPs. He is a very busy person and the JPs, from what I know, many of them have very little formal training and it is not quite as easy as working with fully trained judges and the rest of that. Because it is very difficult to hear what the Minister is saying here, I did not quite hear if he indicated that the Chief Justice is actually looking after all these different areas. If he is, it does not seem appropriate to me. There should be someone that is solely dedicated to looking after the JPs. Would this not be more appropriate?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was not suggesting that Chief Judge Halifax undertook all of the training, but he wanted the responsibility for the training. I understand that he has delegated the responsibilities to other judges. Judge Brown does it for the Baffin for the JPs over there. Judge Bruser does it primarily for a lot of the western JPs. Mr. Chairman, something else that is important to recognize is the JPs themselves have requested that the training be provided by the judiciary. They feel it would be more in tune with providing them with the substance and the background from the judges, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$9,346,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that the JPs have requested training be provided by judges and I can certainly understand why they would want that. My whole point is not just about the training, my whole point is I think this is an area that should have someone specifically tasked to look after the JPs, and perhaps even to move other areas underneath this person as well. I do not think the Chief Justice

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has enough time to be properly looking after the training needs, requirements, recruitment and retention of the JPs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I have indicated, Chief Judge Halifax thought it would be appropriate. I do not know what his workload is. I would imagine he is capable of managing his work. I indicated he has delegated some of the responsibilities out. Unless there are specific

problems to that we should continue to work in the structure we have, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Total operations and maintenance, \$9,346,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there someone specifically that works only on community justice?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe community justice is on the next page, 7-13, but I will allow the Minister to answer. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have a director of community justice in the department on the next page. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$9,346,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total expenditures, \$9,346,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the coroner's program, can we get an indication of what the trend has been in terms of funding for the last five years in this area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not have that information here. I would be glad to provide it to the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total operations and maintenance, \$9,346,000. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Picco wants to go on to 7-13 and I wholeheartedly agree, but can I get an indication of when I can get this information? I noticed through this process in committee of the whole there has been a lot of information that we are supposed to be getting back to us. In many instances it comes too late to influence the decisions on this particular department, but does that mean we are never going to get it just because the department's budget has been approved? I should say it should not mean we should not get it just because we have already approved the budget. I want to know when I can get this information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I have indicated, I do not have the information right here. I will provide it as soon as possible and I will make the commitment to get it to the Member before the end of the week. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total operations and maintenance, \$9,346,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move that we extend sitting hours to conclude the Department of Justice's budget. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to extend the sitting hour until we conclude this particular department. It is not debatable. All those in favour signify. Down. Opposed? The motion is carried. We shall sit until we conclude this particular department. Thank you. Operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$9,346,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total expenditures, \$9,346,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 7-13, community justice and corrections, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$23,656,000. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have been bringing up over the last couple of hours now since we started Justice, the situation regarding the correction facilities and the high occupancy rate. I wonder if the Minister or the staff can give us the occupancy rate in the YCC and the BCC? I believe they are over 100 percent. I would like to know the exact figure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, YCC official count was 201 and for Baffin it is 62 as of February 21st, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, for the Baffin I think the total number of inmates that facility

was set for was about 45 or 46, am I correct? Sixty-two would bring you to about 120 percent occupancy. For the Yellowknife

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facility, I believe it was around 157. I stand to be corrected on it. That would bring the Yellowknife facility at about 150 percent occupancy. Can I get the percentage of occupancy? If you give me the numbers actually in there right now that does not tell me what percentage they are over at the present time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the official capacity for YCC is 132, for Baffin 48.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That tells me here, by simple math, the YCC is about 168 percent occupancy and the BCC is about 142 percent. Mr. Chairman, I understand the situation with fiscal dollars and so on, but I am appalled that we do not have a capital plan for two to five years to have an increase in the size of the facilities. Under this area on 7-13, it seeks to provide positive guidance, work and training of inmates and young offenders with a view to their rehabilitation. I just do not see how we can rehabilitate the inmates when you are at 160 percent or 140 percent occupancy. The staff are stretched to the limit. I wonder what the community justice and corrections have done to hopefully alleviate this situation. I am not blaming the department officials, because I understand we have the highest incarceration rates and the highest instance of violent crime in Canada, twice the national average. I think as a government we should be looking at some way of maximizing the space available to maybe increasing it under our capital plan.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I have indicated in answering these questions and in my opening statement, we recognize there is overcrowding in our institutions. We do not have the capital dollars to establish new facilities as it stands now. What we are trying to do is to focus on stemming the tide if you were to say, try to take some of the pressure off our facilities by having some diversionary programs and alternative programs to get individuals from actually being incarcerated in our facilities, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand the majority of the people that are incarcerated in our facilities in the Northwest Territories are repeat, sometimes triple repeat offenders. It would thus show you that the rehabilitation has not worked the first time, has not worked the second time, and in some cases has not worked the third time. I think one of the reasons for that is because we do not have the staff available on the ground at 160 percent, 140 percent, 150 percent occupancy to be able to do the rehabilitation that we need. I wonder if the department has looked at the federal side of things. At some time there was talk of building a federal facility here in the north. We do not have the capital dollars. Maybe the department could look at the federal government and say can you help us out here, build a facility that could house an extra 30 or 40 federal prisoners from the territories and then use the extra space for northern inmates. There must be a way. I am just trying to think of some solutions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, I agree. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased the Minister agrees with what I have said

here today. I wonder if he agrees as a Minister and I will ask him as a Minister, will he or has he already contacted our federal officials to find out if there are monies available for that federal penitentiary or are there monies available federally to help us get our occupancy levels down or at least enlarge facilities that we have because we are over capacity?

We are in excessive capacity. I think that is why you are seeing two and three time criminals as repeat offenders. The cost to this government for trying to house these offenders is astronomical. Over the last few months we talked about forced growth. There must be nothing but forced growth in this area. Again, I would just ask the Minister two questions, and in my final question, just two suppositions to the question. One is has he contacted federal officials about trying to find money or leverage money from federal officials from corrections? Number two is, if not, when will he be doing this? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have been trying to put together the numbers and the justification and the arguments to try and pursue some form of federal contribution and assistance. We are in the process of finalizing that now. I would anticipate within the next 30 to 60 days we will have some basis to go forward for some form of request. Whether or not that request will be successful is something that will be determined later. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The activity summary, community justice, and corrections, Mr. Roland.

Committee Motion 37-13(4): Development of Diversion Options List by Community

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a committee motion. Under activity summary, community justice, I move this committee recommends that the Minister of Justice develop a list of diversion options available by community, including contact people with phone numbers updated on an ongoing basis, which is available to all RCMP and crown prosecutors in the NWT.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour signify. Down, please. Thank you. Opposed? The motion is carried. Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Roland.

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Committee Motion 38-13(4): Development of FAS/FAE Awareness Training Program for Correctional Staff

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make another motion. Under activity summary, corrections, I move that this committee recommends the Minister of Justice develop an FAS/FAE awareness training program for correctional staff.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour signify. Thank you. Down, please. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Roland.

Committee Motion 39-13(4): Support Material to Assist Communities in Developing Local Community Justice Options

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another committee motion. Under the activity summary, community justice, I move that this committee recommends that clear support material be prepared by the Minister of Justice to assist communities in developing local community justice options.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour, signify in the usual manner. Thank you. Down. Opposed? The motion is carried. Thank you. Community justice and corrections, I have Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Following up on the colleague from Iqaluit, his comments in regards to overcrowding and not having the facilities available, I approached the deputy minister in regards to the Minister of Justice looking at the possibility of the

Minister's favourite subject, the Tl'oondih Healing Camp, to try to access that facility to be used for some form of healing society to run a program, dealing with the lower offenders, basically people that do not have to be institutionalized in the YCI or any other facilities. But to use that facility to look at not only housing these inmates, but running them through structured programs to rehabilitate the individuals in regards to anger, violence or basically whatever help they can get through the healing society. Will the Minister consider looking at that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, but only in respect to current program dollars that we would have, as long as it would not cause incremental costs to the department to provide that programming, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community justice and corrections. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding a similar discussion that there is an opportunity in place where we can look at the possibility of developing that program to deal with those young offenders or people who are low risk, will the Minister make his people available to the community of Fort McPherson and the Healing Society to start deliberations as soon as possible?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we would be supportive of trying to develop programs that assist individuals, whether they are adults or young offenders. Yes, I would say I would be willing to try to work something out provided there is not a substantial incremental cost for providing a new program; if it is within existing program dollars within the department, and there is no problem or the Healing Society did meet the needs of our clientele, an organization like the Tl'oondih Healing Society. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community justice and corrections. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could you have the Minister say it a little louder? Did he say yes?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I believe that was an affirmative. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I said, yes, if it was from existing program dollars that we have within the department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community justice and corrections, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$23,656,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of diversion programs, how will the diversion programs, prior to people entering into the justice system, be affected by the new legal aid policy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not believe they would be affected by the legal aid policy. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Diversion prior to entering the justice system means that someone will work with an accused or before someone is accused to help them get things straightened out and perhaps not get into the justice system by working things out between the person who has done something and the person who has had something done to them. If people are just going to go straight to the courthouse and get assistance or duty counsel, there is no room for this type of diversion. How will this be dealt with? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On the alternative, Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you. I will ask Ms. Sanders to respond to this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Ms. Sanders.

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MS. SANDERS:

That is not how it is intended or the way it works. People, even though there is a diversion program where the police divert cases instead of laying charges and there is an emphasis on more cases being diverted that way in the coming year, there will still be some charges being laid. It is for those cases where charges are laid that legal aid will come into play. What we have talked about as far as the program is where people would immediately receive legal services instead of having to go through the red tape of an application process for summary services. That is only once charges are laid for people that are already in the formal system. It certainly does not affect cases diverted. There is an intention on the part of police and justice committees to further co-operate and have more cases diverted in the coming year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community justice and corrections. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under corrections, did the Minister earlier indicate that the occupancy rate for the Yellowknife Correctional Centre is 168 percent?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I did not give a percentage. The honourable Member for Iqaluit was speaking of percentages. I gave the numbers. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community justice. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that place is at 168 percent occupancy, where are they all sleeping? They must be stacked like cord wood.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We seem to be having some commotion going on this side. Sir, may we have some order? Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, primarily it has been some removal of the program space being changed into dormitory space over the years and has allowed for extra bed spaces in this facility, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community justice and corrections. Final supplement for you, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the rehabilitation space is now being used by dormitories, this takes away from the capability of the institution to rehabilitate people. I did not ask a question yet. Do we have any plans to increase the capacity of the YCC by adding onto it or by building a new facility?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I have answered numerous times now, we recognize there is a problem

with the overcrowding. We are hoping that a strategic plan, which will take into account corrections, will confirm the need for additional spaces. The issue is not knowing we need more spaces, the issue is how we are going to pay for them. That has historically been a problem that has not been addressed and it becomes compounded as our existing facilities deteriorate, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community justice and corrections, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$23,656,000. Agreed? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the federal government cost-share the capital cost for the correctional facilities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

No, they do not, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community justice and corrections, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$23,656,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 7-14, detail of capital, community justice and corrections, building and works, headquarters, total region, \$690,000. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$572,000 for "various". What is included in this various? Is it just in a pool or is it being allocated? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For upgrading security cameras at YYC, \$68,000. That is internally. Externally \$70, 000; \$57, 000 for kitchen equipment; \$42, 000 for generator upgrade; \$70, 000 for washroom upgrades; \$20, 000 for some ceiling work; \$60, 000 for some interior renovations; \$50, 000 for carving room renovations; \$7, 000 for linoleum upgrade; \$30, 000 for non-security lock up upgrade; \$40, 000 for air flow retrofit and for South Mackenzie Correctional Centre; \$20,000 for a radio system replacement; \$15,000 for a phone system; \$20,000 for an emergency generator. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From the numbers you read off there, correct me if I am wrong, the majority of that is for the Yellowknife Correctional Centre?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The majority of it was. There were a few items that were for the South Mackenzie Correctional facility at the end there, about \$58,000 to \$60,000 of that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, headquarters, total region, \$690,000. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why would that then not be under an actual facility instead of under various?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because there are not significant dollars in each of those projects and they were for different projects. I suppose we could have lumped it in one, but we would still have had to break it out later. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How would this be accounted for? When you look at the total facility cost, does it get put onto that facility at some time? Because right now under various, the amounts are not put to a facility according to what we are able to see.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe the way our accounting structure works, it just gets charged out at the time and not carried forward as a cost. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Building and works, headquarters, total region, \$690,000. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, Baffin region, total region, \$232,000. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this the only work that has occurred in this facility?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I do not know which facility you are referring to now. Baffin? Yes, it is then. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From the previous year, I believe we looked at some funding going into that facility for some other work. Is this a different facility or what?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Sorry, I might have missed the Member's questions when he first referred to it. The \$232,000 is the 97/98 capital estimates that we are approving. In this current fiscal year, there were some renovations done on the Baffin Correctional Centre and other correctional centres as well that are not a part of these estimates for next year, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Baffin region, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My concern is for any of these things here, we do not have any prior year costs and I think it is important when we are looking at facilities and where the funding goes to see what prior year costs are. Can the Minister inform us as to why we do not have any future years anticipated or prior years costs? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is because of the nature of our capital reporting and this is specific to one project. If it had been a carry-forward from another project that was a two or three year project, then you would see some prior years costs, future years costs. But because this project is just specific to the 97/98 year, it is shown as that and only as that year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Baffin region, total region, \$332,000. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Correction, total region, Baffin region, \$232,000. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just a quick question for the Minister. I see the \$232,000. Is there anything for next year in the budget plan for this centre because of the occupancy rate that the Minister gave us earlier for over-capacity and stacking them in like cord wood? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Zero. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Baffin region, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, will the Minister again look at this or maybe come back to Iqaluit with me and take another tour of the facility? I remember when we went through the last time, I think it opened his eyes a little bit. I think we could have another try. I would ask the Minister at this time, would he commit to coming to Iqaluit and going through the facility again to see the overcrowded conditions and the work that needs to be done there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if I commit to dollars now, can I not go to Iqaluit?

-- Laughter

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Sorry, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would say yes. We have to address our needs throughout the whole system on a yearly basis. It is just that work has not been done yet. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, Baffin region, total region, \$232,000. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total building and works, \$922,000. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Acquisition of equipment, headquarters, total region, \$125,000.

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Acquisition of equipment, Baffin region, total region, \$15,000.

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Total acquisition of equipment, \$140,000. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 7-15, detail of capital, community justice and corrections, contributions, headquarters, total region, \$92,000. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that \$92,000 going to Aklavik for losing out on the last buildings camp they were going to build for corrections?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that is for ongoing contributions to our wilderness camps. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contribution headquarters, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there any portion of that \$92,000 going to Aklavik for wilderness camps?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I cannot determine that there is no set funding for where that is going to go. As it stands now, it depends on the applications and the needs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Contribution headquarters, total region, \$92,000. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I get an assurance from the Minister that there will be a portion of that going to Aklavik for wilderness camps?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I can make the commitment that there will be money going into the Aklavik community for some wilderness camp contributions, partly this year and some next year possibly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contribution headquarters, total region is \$92,000. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

For the record, could the Minister speak up? I did not hear. Did he say he was going to put some money into my riding? Could he read it into the record so that it is written down?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We have an ear piece available to you and every Member here. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I said yes from this year's funding and possibly some that would go in next year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, headquarters, total region, \$92,000. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, my concern here is that my camp that we had for young offenders had to go to a per diem amount last year (inaudible) any base funding. I am wondering if the wilderness camp contributions here include those type of camps?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the specific item we are referring to now is capital contributions, the system to replenish some of their capital equipment. The operating and maintenance side is in the community justice corrections funding, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions headquarters, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that then would not take in my camp, is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am not sure what the honourable Member is getting at. What I

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am saying is that the item we are on now, the \$92,000, is for capital contributions for all camp operators to replenish some of their capital equipment needs and on the operating side the dollars, the per diem, that the Member refers to comes out of the community justice corrections division of the department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am just trying to find out if the capital costs indicated here in the \$92,000, that the people operating the camp in Iqaluit, would they be able to access this money for capital?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you have a breakdown?

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you. They would be eligible, like all other camp operators, to access some funding based on the merits of their proposal. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, headquarters, total region, \$92,000. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total contributions, \$92,000. Thank you. Total activity, \$1,154,000. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Detail of grants and contributions, total grants, \$46,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Contributions on page 7-17, total contributions, \$2,977,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Total grants and contributions, \$3,023,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. Information item, page 7-18, active positions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties on page 7-19. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Continuation of detail of works performed on behalf of third parties, total department, \$885,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We will go back to page 7-7, program summary, justice, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$71,434,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Capital, total capital, \$1,154,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total expenditures, \$72,588,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Do we agree the Department of Justice's budget program summary, 1997/98 main estimates is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses that appeared before the committee. I understand that we agree with the motion that was previously passed? Before I rise to report on progress to the Speaker, I would like to remind everyone that any Member who makes a motion to extend the sitting hour is to make every effort to remain in this House until that item is concluded. Thank you. I will now rise and report progress.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997/98, and Committee Report 6-13(4) and would like to report progress with six motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, the meeting of the full Caucus at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, Ordinary Members' Caucus at 10:30, the Standing Committee on Social Programs at 11:15, the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development at 11:15 and the Standing Committee on Infrastructure at 12:00 noon.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 4, 1997:

1. Prayer

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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 for the Review of Bills

13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motions

15. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 11, Loan Authorization Act, 1997/98

18. Second Reading of Bills

- Bill 13, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 1997

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, 1996/97

- Bill 12, Student Financial Assistance Act

- Committee Report 2-13(4), Standing Committee on Government Operations

- Committee Report 3-13(4), Standing Committee on Infrastructure

- Committee Report 4-13(4), Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development

- Committee Report 6-13(4), Standing Committee on Social Programs

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 4th, at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT