



**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 the constant recognition of the dignity and aspirations of those whom we serve. Amen.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Good afternoon. Orders of the day, Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Gender Parity

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak about gender parity. Political astuteness would tell me to stay away from this subject. However, I would not be myself if I did not wade in where angels fear to tread. First of all, I want to state categorically, for the record, that I would like to see more women in politics. For one thing, it would make our government more representative of the people it serves. I have a little statistic here. It says that Canada may be ranked as the number one country in the world by other measures but, when it comes to representation of women according to the inter-parliamentary union, we are ranked 21st, just between Uganda and another country which I could not catch the name of, probably Uzbekistan or some place. Men and women are different. They bring profoundly different perspectives and approaches to people, processes and problems. I know that no matter how many male-dominated organizations I associate with, I still think, speak and act like a woman.

Over the past few weeks, I have been asked for my opinion on gender parity in territorial ridings. I want to see more women in political office because I know it would affect, as we say, the way we do government. But would I be willing to give up my right to compete with men to get there? I would have to say no. I have been blessed with parents who encouraged and told me I could do anything I put my mind to. I have been blessed with a supportive husband who is willing to do more than his share to allow me to pursue my goals, but I have also worked very hard my whole life to prove that I am equal to any male. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Tribute to Cape Dorset Mace Designers

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure and pride to inform Members that a long overdue issue will be finally dealt with this month in Cape Dorset. On March 14, 1997, I will be travelling to Cape Dorset along with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Sam Gargan, and the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Her Honour Helen Maksagak, to pay special tribute to the great artists from Cape Dorset who designed and build the Mace.

Mr. Speaker, the project began in Cape Dorset on July 15, 1955, under the supervision of the well-known artist, Mr. James Houston. There were a total of nine Inuit artists involved in the project and they completed the task in just 21 days. The Governor General then presented it in Ottawa to the Legislative Assembly in 1956.

Mr. Speaker, four of the original artists are still living today. Oshawetuk Ipeelie, Lutka Qiatsuk, Kovianaktuliak Parr, Ashevak Ezekiel. Unfortunately, the remaining artists have passed away. They were: Peter Pitseolak, Nungoshuitok, Qavaroak Tunnillie, Moses Tauki and Kovianatuliak Ottokie.

At a special community gathering on Saturday, March 15th, we will be making special presentations to the carvers

themselves or a direct descendant who has been chosen by the family to receive the presentation.

In addition, we will also pay a special tribute to Mrs. Oodlooreak Manning, who donated her prized copper kettle to be modified into the crown when the native copper originally planned for use proved too brittle. Her kettle was eventually replaced by the Governor General.

Mr. Speaker, the original Mace is too valuable a treasure to risk in a journey over 1,000 kilometres to Cape Dorset. However, we will bring the exact replica, which is the one brought into this House each time we start sitting. I am sure that the carvers, their families, and the people of Cape Dorset will get great pleasure from seeing this exact replica of their artistry.

I would ask all Members to join me in congratulating and thanking the people of Cape Dorset for this outstanding contribution to the legacy of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Concerns with Trail Cross Facility Privatization

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk briefly about Trail Cross. Trail Cross is a child care facility in Fort Smith that has been in operation since the '60s. It has evolved over those years, up to last year, to a fairly well-run, sophisticated facility that delivers the high quality of care for children, mainly girls, across the Northwest Territories. It had mainly aboriginal staff who had been trained over the years to provide good service in conjunction with professional support services from Yellowknife and other jurisdictions.

The first year of this Assembly it was decided, as a cost-cutting measure, that there would be a privatization of that facility. That was done and it was turned over to a private contractor last year. There have been some concerns raised since that time but, as of late, there have been a number of incidents in

that facility which cause me significant concern. Incidents involving children in care. Incidents and concerns raised by many people from my constituency about the programming that is currently underway. The fact that aboriginal staff seem to be quietly no longer employed there.

I am very concerned about the state of affairs and the well-being of the children. It is a very important program for the Northwest Territories, otherwise children that require that service would have to be sent south. I am sure the Minister shares my concern about the well-being of children in care and the need to have that kind of service effectively run. There do seem to be problems that have arisen since this institution and program was privatized. I think it is going to require a second look. I will be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services, at the appropriate time, questions about this particular facility and the incidents occurring there at present. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Passing of Community Leader in Igloodik - Sarah (Aqiaroq) Konoo

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some sad news to share with you. Last night, in Igloodik, a person had passed away. This person is a 50 year old person and she has done a lot as a community leader. As well, she has been a member of the Anglican Church. She passed away last night. I would like to send my condolences to the family and we will be with you in our prayers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Contracting in Nunavut Communities

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Members. Today I want to talk about

contracting within the Nunavut communities. In the Nunavut communities, under Article 24 of the Nunavut Final Agreement, it states that anyone who is an aboriginal person can apply to have a contract under certain companies or under a certain contract or bid for a contract. In this case, the people of Nunavut can bid for contracts. Today I want to talk about Inuit from my riding, how a construction company in one of my communities has been requesting to do a contract to build an adult education unit in Clyde River. They have been given help from the hamlet of Clyde River and, as well, I have given my assistance as their Member of the Legislative Assembly. I have given them my support. During question period, I will be asking a question to the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, the honourable Minister Goo Arlooktoo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends.)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement On Support for TI'oondih Healing Society

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great honour to read the press release yesterday in relation to students from Fort McPherson who will be spending time at the TI'oondih Healing Camp so that they can deal with the many issues that affect our students these days in relation to community concerns; also the thing that has affected the community the most in the last year, the arsons of the two fires; also to deal with the question of consultation and working along with children, parents, to make them aware of issues that effect them in regards to alcoholism and drug abuse, the question about suicides and what they are trying to do in relation to the community politics, and also what the healing camp consists of.

Mr. Speaker, in the last year since I arrived here, I have raised several questions and passed motions. There have been petitions passed in this House in relation to this issue. There

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was also a committee struck between the Minister, the Premier, the Minister of Finance, myself and members of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the TI'oondih Healing Society. Yet today after all consultation, the Minister still leaves a grey cloud over

the community on exactly where we are going to go in relation to an investment that was made by the community for the people of Mackenzie Delta and the Northwest Territories to deal with healing and a program to deal with family programs that we have established.

Mr. Speaker, in relation to the attempts by the community to allow themselves to heal and to deal with the problems that affect a lot of our communities day in and day out, this initiative has been endorsed by the federal government. It has been endorsed by band councils, committee councils and also a lot of people in the north who have benefited from this program. Yet until today, I still do not see the support that I was hoping would be there from this government. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister questions on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Hunter Traffic on the Colomac Road

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you may recall, last week during our sitting I asked the honourable Minister responsible for the Department of RWED why there was increased hunting traffic on the winter road that goes to Colomac mines. I believe the Minister did not truly understand what I was asking. My reasoning behind this statement is the fact that today in the morning news, I heard our Grand Chief, Joe Rabesca, talking about the amount of caribou meat that has been left behind by various hunters. Mr. Speaker, as I stated previously, my region was hoping to work closely with the department to ensure there was adequate monitoring taking place. If hunters left meat behind, these individuals should be charged. Unfortunately, it seems that this has not happened.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated previously, the Dogrib Rae Band hired one of its own members to provide monitoring, as the Department of RWED is short staff in Rae-Edzo and could not perform an adequate job. There was also mention that the department's office in Yellowknife would occasionally assist the Rae Band Councils in monitoring. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me the department is not living up to the mandate by not enforcing their rules on hunting wildlife. I do not see

why a hunter would go out to hunt caribou and take only a small portion of the animal. This is a total waste of a valuable resource and people should respect the resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On GNWT Staffing Policies

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon on the issue of affirmative action. Mr. Speaker, I have said to the people of my community, I represent everybody equally. However, they grow concerned when jobs in the community are saved for someone else or when it is kept on casual and they continue to roll over these positions without handing them out to long-term residents of the north or people who fall under the affirmative action, P1.

Mr. Speaker, I have received a number of letters from my community raising this concern, especially in regards to the NWT Power Corporation. I have forwarded those concerns on to the Minister and I will be questioning him on this issue at the appropriate time. I have done so in the past, but the concern seems to keep coming around. I believe it is time to address this and deal with this once and for all, so people will know exactly what is happening and what the policies of this government and departments or corporations under this government are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Flexibility in Medical Travel

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, an incident came to my attention during the latter part of February, concerning a couple from Arviat who lost their first born baby during the RSV outbreak last year. This couple is looking forward to the birth of their second child. However, the baby will have to be born in Winnipeg as it has potential medical problems. Due to the recent cutbacks for non-medical escorts, the father wrote me, worried that he would not be able or allowed to escort his wife to the hospital and be there to support her during the child's surgery that will

be required at a later date. Mr. Speaker, I wrote to the Keewatin Health Board and a copy of my letter went to Minister Ng. I am pleased to report that the health board did agree to allow the father to travel with the wife and stay there for the birth of the child. Mr. Speaker, we certainly appreciate the efforts of the Minister and his department and also the board in allowing this escort. Unfortunately, there are other situations that we are faced with other people in the community, elders where they are not allowed or do not meet the criteria in order to travel with their family members. Mr. Speaker, I will be addressing this issue further with the Minister during question period.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Expedient Appointment Of Interim Commissioner

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have a little calendar in the lobby of the Assembly counting down the days before division. Mr. Speaker, every Member of this House wants division to proceed smoothly and on course. When the agreement was signed finally giving a date for division, it seemed like a long time off. Now as the days quickly go by, Nunavut and the new western territory are becoming closer to reality. Mr. Speaker, there will and have been bumps on the road proceeding to and after division. The fiscal framework, infrastructure, jobs and the actual makeup of the new governments themselves are causing much concern and debate. Constitution issues, as well as the appointment of the interim commissioner, are high on this agenda. In Nunavut, the appointment of the interim commissioner will be part of the final piece of the puzzle. The federal delay of this

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appointment has caused much concern as the timeline towards Nunavut gets shorter. Mr. Speaker, every day we hear that the appointment is imminent. I would again ask this government in very strong language to communicate again with our partner, the federal government, to press on them to have the appointment made as expediently and expeditiously as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On New Headlight Legislation

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is about daytime headlights. Mr. Speaker, last year this Assembly passed a headlights bill, which made it mandatory to have headlights on at all times on our highways. During the winter, not much was said because we have so much darkness. Now that we are getting more light every day and some police officials are starting to enforce the law, there are some people starting to complain. I just wanted to remind everyone why it is important to have headlights on during the day. Studies show that having headlights on reduces accidents. A Saskatchewan study showed 24 percent less accidents concerning pedestrians where daytime running lights were made mandatory. This means that one out of four accidents with pedestrians were averted. Similarly in Saskatchewan from 1982 to 1989, two vehicle crashes in the daytime were reduced by 28 percent after they introduced daytime running lights. In Finland, the use of daytime running lights in rural areas reduced daytime collisions by 27 percent. In Sweden, the use of daytime running lights reduced daytime collisions by 11 percent.

Mr. Speaker, if a vehicle has its lights on, it is easier to notice that vehicle in your side vision. It is particularly helpful for children and elderly people when they are trying to cross the streets. Currently, they have problems discerning how far away vehicles are and having headlights on helps them to tell if it is safe to cross or not. At this time of the year, cool temperatures bring blinding sunlight and increases your chances of seeing a vehicle coming at you in the sunlight if that vehicle has its lights on. Mr. Speaker, I know that it can be an effort for those who do not have automatic lights, but I also believe that it is worth it if it helps even one person from having an accident. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Importance of Access Roads

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak on access roads, especially for the smaller communities. It is very important to have access roads in the smaller communities, especially for the visitors, for hunting purposes, for tourists and also to go hunting and get to your boats and your vehicles. As a government, we have been cutting back. There have been cutbacks on the access roads as well. Later on this afternoon, I will be asking the Minister responsible for Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends.)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Western Constitutional Process

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say a few words today about the constitutional process that we are going through. This has been about a year's project and soon members of the Constitutional Working Group have arranged to hold meetings in various communities. In my community of Yellowknife, this will take place on March 18. My area of concern with the consultation process is that we ensure that the Constitutional Working Group provide a facilitator to conduct these meetings and that resource people be available to answer questions and to explain the various proposals and principles that are being put forward, which we are seeking the public's feedback on. One of the other areas of concern that I have is that we not put forward the main proposal again to the public and say this is the main proposal and how do you feel about it. It is my impression from the public that I have dealt with, the main proposal has a lot of holes in it. We have to be able to put forward the other two proposals that were in the document and have explanations of how the various proposals were worked. I think that the other item that is of critical concern to the public is the ratification process of the constitution. By that I mean how the vote will be held in the western Arctic in order to approve or disapprove the constitution that will be put forward. I think that this is extremely important for the Constitutional Working Group to address before the group goes to consultation. Later on in this session, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking several questions of the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs in this regard. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure today to represent someone who comes from one of the smaller of the two communities that I represent, Enterprise. Mr. Karl Mueller is in the gallery today.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 442-13(4): Facilitator For Constitutional Consultation Process

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs regarding the constitutional consultation process. I wonder if the Minister could tell us if there will be a facilitator along with resource individuals provided at the public meetings. Naturally, the Members of the Legislative Assembly for that constituency will be present. I

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wonder if the Minister could answer that question for me. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 442-13(4): Facilitator For Constitutional Consultation Process

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Constitution Working Group office has obtained facilitators to be involved in the consultation process. There will be

resource people at the meetings to answer all necessary questions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 442-13(4): Facilitator For Constitutional Consultation Process

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A great concern to me is how the package, the three proposals that we have, will be presented to the public. Will there be an explanation of each of the proposals and models that were put forward in the initial document? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 442-13(4): Facilitator For Constitutional Consultation Process

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The facilitators held a workshop on Friday to go through the package so they become familiar with it. These are technical people who will be going into the communities to explain the package and address the concerns that have arisen regarding the package that was tabled in this House in October. We have moved beyond that particular package. There will be additional information there. The idea of the process is not to sell the package. The idea is to explain the package and the concerns and receive further feedback from the communities. Perhaps they could address the concerns at these meetings as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 442-13(4): Facilitator For Constitutional Consultation Process

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the ratification process, can the Minister enlighten us as to whether or not a decision has been made that will be put before the public for consultation as to how the constitution will be ratified?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 442-13(4): Facilitator For Constitutional Consultation Process

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the end of the whole process, once we have gone through the consultation and looked at the feedback we received from communities regarding this package, we tend to revise the package. With the concerns that have developed, we will have a more refined package that will be acceptable to the people of the north. We will then go through the ratification process. We are developing some scenarios on how the ratification process will be done. That will also be presented during the consultation process. This ratification will happen hopefully by the fall. We still have some time to further develop this process. It is important that we have a grasp on what it is we are trying to deal with here when we are asking people to approve a package we are developing. Yes, we will have information on the ratification process during the constitution process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 442-13(4): Facilitator For Constitutional Consultation Process

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once the revisions have been made and the package has been redrafted, will it be placed before the Western Caucus and the Aboriginal Summit for approval and acceptance prior to it going out to the public? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 442-13(4): Facilitator For Constitutional Consultation Process

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very important when we are developing this constitution process that everyone that has been involved in this process be kept up-to-

date with the latest information. We mentioned in this House earlier in this session that we regard it as a rolling draft. We are developing the draft as we go through the constitution process. It is very important that we keep everybody informed as we go along. Yes, we will be notifying and informing the Western Caucus Members and the Aboriginal Summit leaders as we move through this process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 443-13(4): State of Affairs at Trail Cross Facility

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. It is regarding the Trail Cross facility, and the state of affairs at the facility, regarding the contract itself and some recent incidents. What are the plans of the Minister, in terms of trying to make sure the well-being of the children is paramount in all of this? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 443-13(4): State of Affairs at Trail Cross Facility

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also concerned about the incident that took place at Trail Cross. Standard protocol is that we receive an incident report from the contractors detailing the specific incidents that took place. The plan would be to review the incident report with the

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contractors, to ensure that proper procedure took place and try to minimize the risk of any similar incidents happening. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 443-13(4): State of Affairs at Trail Cross Facility

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate how he will be doing this? Will he be sending somebody down to do an investigation or will it be dealt with by the people and staff in Fort Smith that work in that department? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 443-13(4): State of Affairs at Trail Cross Facility

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not decided on how the issue will be handled by the department at this stage. I want to see the incident report first, to review it personally, to see if there are additional requirements to pursue it further. I have not spoken to my staff on this matter yet. I have been waiting for the reports to start the process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 443-13(4): State of Affairs at Trail Cross Facility

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems to me, although I am not perfectly sure, there was more than one incident involved. Would the Minister commit to making this a priority issue so nothing further does occur, that this should not happen and the well-being of the children is paramount? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 443-13(4): State of Affairs at Trail Cross Facility

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I certainly recognize the seriousness of the situation, because of the fact they are wards of the government in those residential treatment centres. I have asked for the report. It is in the process of being drafted now. I do not know exactly where it stands, but I will make the review of the situation a high priority issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 443-13(4): State of Affairs at Trail Cross Facility

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for that commitment. Would the Minister also share that information with me, or as much as he can without giving me specific client information, so I may reassure the constituents in Fort Smith that are concerned as to how the matter is being handled and what kind of remedies are being contemplated? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 443-13(4): State of Affairs at Trail Cross Facility

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will share as much information to the Member or any Members that are interested within the guidelines I am allowed, considering we have children in care here, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Roland.

Question 444-13(4): Concerns with Affirmative Action Policy

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. I addressed this earlier on, in my position as the representative of Inuvik for this Assembly, about the concerns of the Affirmative Action Policy when it comes to the Power Corporation. There is some discussion within the community as to whether or not there is an actual Affirmative Action Policy. Can the Minister inform us if there is a policy or do they follow the government's existing policy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 444-13(4): Concerns with Affirmative Action Policy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The public service staffing appeals regulations made pursuant to the Public Service Act and administered by the GNWT, does include the Power Corporation. The Power Corporation is required to give preference when hiring to indigenous aboriginals, indigenous non-aboriginals, resident disabled individuals, and resident women in non-traditional occupations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 444-13(4): Concerns with Affirmative Action Policy

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us what the process is for putting out for jobs within the community for the Power Corporation?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 444-13(4): Concerns with Affirmative Action Policy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the detailed information with me to answer that question. I will be happy to provide the Member with the policy of the

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Corporation in writing within the next couple of days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 444-13(4): Concerns with Affirmative Action Policy

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The concern comes out of a possible situation where casuals are hired and the

position is continually renewed under a casual basis. When the Minister is getting this information, can he address the issue of casuals and how long a casual can stay in a position before it is deemed to be a full-time position? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 444-13(4): Concerns with Affirmative Action Policy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will certainly be prepared to provide the Member with that information. One of the things I should mention, the Power Corporation does have a total of 45.6 percent of its employee force who qualify under the Affirmative Action Policy. I think the Corporation has done a good job, in comparison to other agencies in this government, at achieving a representative level in the work-force. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 444-13(4): Concerns with Affirmative Action Policy

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think those numbers are excellent numbers when you look at some of the other statistics we have as a government. My concern comes in the area of positions that are turned over. Within a small community, you can have a position that turns over and seems to stay away from hiring on long-term northerners, whether they are aboriginal or not. While the Minister is looking at this, will he inform me if there is any difference in the GNWT's policy and the Power Corporation's policy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 444-13(4): Concerns with Affirmative Action Policy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have taken the Member's concerns very seriously and have

directed the Power Corporation to provide me with the appropriate information to respond to the Member. I will be happy to provide the information he has requested in a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 445-13(4): Core Funding to Tl'oondih Healing Society

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. It is in relation to a motion that was passed, Committee Motion 6-13(3) regarding core funding to the Tl'oondih Healing Society, which was carried. My question to the Minister is the motion clearly states for the Minister and Executive Council to immediately enter into negotiations with the Tl'oondih Healing Society to provide core funding to the society at the same level provided to other institutions providing that service. Also, there have been petitions passed in this House and a lot of debate on this particular issue. I would like to ask the Minister what has been done in relation to these motions and these petitions?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 445-13(4): Core Funding to Tl'oondih Healing Society

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the honourable Member knows, staff have sat down with the staff of the Tl'oondih Healing Society to try to work out some arrangements. It has not resulted in any agreement to provide any core funding for the Tl'oondih Healing Society, as I have indicated in this House on numerous occasions in answering the honourable Members in this area. We are moving the funding for residential treatment centres out to the regions and giving the regions and the communities more direct input into how those dollars are allocated and, in that same vein, how those dollars would flow to some of the residential treatment programs that we have in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 445-13(4): Core Funding to Tl'oondih Healing Society

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To ensure that the long-term liability of the Tl'oondih Healing Society continues, what kind of assurances can the Minister give to ensure that there will be a Tl'oondih Healing Society down the road in the next three to five years?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 445-13(4): Core Funding to Tl'oondih Healing Society

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot give any assurances on the future operations of the Tl'oondih Healing Society. For that matter, in respect to some of our residential treatment centres that this government finances, we have had to withdraw some funding to one of our residential treatment centres because of the fact that there is a vacancy in the occupancy levels of those facilities, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 445-13(4): Core Funding to Tl'oondih Healing Society

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MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the comments by the Minister, could he tell me exactly directly or indirectly will they have access to funds for alcohol and drug programs for the Inuvik region?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 445-13(4): Core Funding to Tl'oondih Healing Society

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would say that, yes, they would have access to funds through the regional health and social services boards that we will be financing for residential treatment programs, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 445-13(4): Core Funding to TI'oondih Healing Society

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The whole idea of funding a particular program is that this is the only family healing program in Canada at the present time which is structured to deal with families and not just individuals. Because this is a unique program in the Northwest Territories, would the Minister make an attempt to ensure there is some mechanism there that when you are dealing with family issues in regards to social services that they do consider that there is a program in the north to look at those particular things. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 445-13(4): Core Funding to TI'oondih Healing Society

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would take it that the regional boards would take that into consideration. They would take into consideration not just the individual's needs, but that of his or her family as well in trying to design any treatment program that would be appropriate for their needs, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 446-13(4): Non-Medical Escorts for Elders

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement this morning, I spoke of the father from Arviat seeking to accompany his wife for the birth of their child. Mr. Speaker, I am further

reminded of another situation where just recently an elder was medevaced to Winnipeg with no family escort. The elder did not speak English and I am sure that the Minister can realize how difficult and traumatic this could be to one of our seniors travelling a long distance via airplane without any family members with him. Would the Minister consider amending the non-medical escort policy to allow for non-medical escorts for elders only in the Keewatin communities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 446-13(4): Non-Medical Escorts for Elders

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It must be Health and Social Services day. Mr. Speaker, no, I am not prepared to do that arbitrarily. We recognize that, particularly in the area of medical travel, we are under fiscal pressures because of the fact that we have historically had increased demands on medical travel for treatment. What we have done, as all Members know is, given the accountability and the authority to regional boards to set their own policies recognizing -- and I am glad that the honourable Member in his statement acknowledged that the Keewatin board recognize the sensitivity of the one example of somebody that needed to have an exception to the medical travel policy to allow him to be with his spouse. That is why we have made the decision to give boards that autonomy, so they can recognize those exceptions that might need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis, Mr. Speaker. But it would not be fair to have a blanket coverage of all escorts because of the fact that we do not have the financial resources to meet all the needs, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 446-13(4): Non-Medical Escorts for Elders

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions were geared towards elders only, primarily elders that did not speak English. I would further ask if the Minister has any idea what the additional cost would

be to make an exception to the policy that would enable elders to be accompanied by a family member during medical travel? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 446-13(4): Non-Medical Escorts for Elders

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our priority is to provide medical transportation to patients, the people that require the services, the medical attention to treat their needs. Having said that, we recognize there are some sensitivities when you are dealing with unilingual individuals, particularly our elders. Nobody likes to see them be discomforted or put into situations that are not acceptable because of the fact they are unilingual. So what we try to impress upon boards and their travel personnel is to have not so much a dedicated escort available, but certainly somebody that is bilingual that could accompany the individual from their point of origin to their point of destination so that at least there will be somebody that is bilingual that can be able to assist anybody that may require some assistance, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 446-13(4): Non-Medical Escorts for Elders

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MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister confirm whether this non-medical escort policy is a GNWT policy or if it varies from board to board or region to region? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 446-13(4): Non-Medical Escorts for Elders

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as some of our community empowerment initiatives, we are giving boards the autonomy and the authority to set their own policies. Having said that, our funding mechanism does not allow for escort travels in the budget allocations for the dollars for medical travel. If a board were to, for example, decide that they wanted to pay for escorts across the board for individuals, they would not have all the funding from the Department of Health and Social Services to do that. It would impact on their budgets and they would have to make some reductions in a different area to accommodate those needs that they chose as a priority for spending, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 446-13(4): Non-Medical Escorts for Elders

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is it fair to say and can the Minister confirm that indeed it is totally up to the individual boards to make these decisions on escort matters? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 446-13(4): Non-Medical Escorts for Elders

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 447-13(4): Status of Leases for Social Housing

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of FMBS. It concerns leases and the leases of housing units. Mr. Speaker, there is quite a lot of concern in my riding regarding availability of housing. The new policy that has been formulated by this government, Plan 2000, will not address those

current needs of social housing units today and the long-term leases of this government in those leases. I wonder if the Minister of FMBS could update this House on the status of the leases? Are we going to renegotiate them? What is going to happen here? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 447-13(4): Status of Leases for Social Housing

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is a three-part question, if I can answer it that way. I have already said in the House that, in co-operation with my colleague Mr. Arlooktoo, existing leases that we have for staff units that are no longer required, we are prepared to transfer over to the Housing Corporation along with the financial resources for utilization by June, for utilization in the social housing. I think that is the one side of things where we are already fiscally committed to leases that we cannot get out of. I think the second issue in that is what we are going to do with the huge shortfall in social housing? Is the territorial government prepared to, I believe my colleague is saying, purchase or make arrangements for leases for social housing that are under review right now. I believe some of that is already happening in my colleague's riding in Iqaluit and certainly we need to take a look at the political and the economic ramifications of an extension to that program. We are currently reviewing that and hopefully will be able to have a much clearer position by the May and June session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 447-13(4): Status of Leases for Social Housing

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the review the Minister talked about and hopefully will come forward in the May session, at that time will Mr. Todd be tabling it in the House for discussion, will we be looking at it as a public document? Will we be going back to the stakeholders and other people who are looking for houses and also the people that this

government is leasing from? We have to realize that the capitalization of these residential combinations have been paid for and financed out of some of these business people. That is a major error. I wonder when the review is complete, will they be bringing it forward as a document? Will they have it tabled as a document? Will they have it tabled as a discussion within the House?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 447-13(4): Status of Leases for Social Housing

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think if I can just raise the question again so I get the right answer. The question I think my colleague is asking is, is the GNWT going to expand the fact that we are purchasing housing through leases for people who require them in social housing who do not have the ability to pay the rent. I think that is the question. Am I correct? Because of the shortage and the fact there is overcrowding, I know that precedents have been established in Iqaluit, as my colleague Mr. Dent says. We are concerned that when we do this kind of thing, which is necessary where there is significant overcrowding, there is a concern about the long-term fiscal costs. It is not a question of bringing the paper forward. It is a question of both myself and Mr. Dent and Mr. Arlooktoo sitting down and trying to determine what are the long-term ramifications of continuing with purchasing leases from the private sector for the short-fall that we have in social housing. I do not think it is the total solution to the difficult housing problem we have, but it may well be a partial solution because there is a limitation to the fiscal resources that Mr. Dent has within the social envelope. We are certainly looking

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at it. As I said, precedents have been established, but we need to ensure we can afford it if there is going to be a significant expansion of it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 447-13(4): Status of Leases for Social Housing

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, while we are on this area, one of the concerns that I have and I have raised it a couple of times as it has been brought forward by my constituency to the Minister, is the privatization of the leases for the same housing. On the record here, which is the staff housing which is identified for the leasing of properties that are managed. I wonder if the Minister would tell me about this contract. When is he going to let that contract?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 447-13(4): Status of Leases for Social Housing

HON. JOHN TODD:

My apologies, Mr. Speaker, there seems to be a slight glitch in my hearing and I did not quite catch the question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was concerning the privatization of the property management services that has already been let. I think it still falls into the same area because, in one instance, we have all staff housing transferred from FMBS and some of this has been sold off and made available so that we can get people out of social housing. I think there is a tie in here. When is he going to announce the privatization of property management services, which is under FMBS, in my riding?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is, as always, a good question from my colleague from the land of milk and honey, Iqaluit. The reason there has been a slight delay in the expansion of this privatization initiative is primarily because we have had such resounding response to our second round of house sales. The property management and the costs associated with that will be contingent on how many houses are left

over and how many leases are in place. I am fairly confident that, within the next 60 to 90 days, we will be able to conclude all the housing that we think we can conclude, then look forward to advertising and tendering property management right across the territorial framework, because we will be clear as to what properties we have and what properties we do not have. That is the primary reason for the fact that we have not moved sooner on this initiative. At the end of the day, we are really hoping that the houses we have to look after will be minimal as our employees will have purchased the houses or local groups, as they are currently doing now, will have purchased the houses on their behalf. I want to assure my colleague we will move quickly as soon as we have concluded our initiative on the sale of the staff housing. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 447-13(4): Status of Leases for Social Housing

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it may have sounded like two different questions there, but it was not. I am just trying to get around to my final supplementary and that is on the privatization of property management services which includes the leases of some of the properties we are leasing. My question is on the privatization of property management services. The leases that we currently hold for those social housing units, are those entailed with this property management?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Again, just to indicate to the Members where there is a requirement for clarification, I do not include that as supplementary. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 447-13(4): Status of Leases for Social Housing

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would hope the property management tender we will put out will in fact include the leases the government pays for. In other words, we will have the private sector manage the leases on any surplus housing the government currently pays for. For example, the pilot project in the Keewatin now looks after all the leases, looks after all

the maintenance and looks after the collection of the rents from the individual tenants. We are certainly looking for an expansion of that program. I look forward to be able to move quickly, before spring of this year, to conclude it right across the territorial framework, so that government can be out of the business of housing and put in the private sector where it belongs. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 448-13(4): Construction Contract in Clyde River

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my Member's statement, I stated that I would be raising a question with regard to small businesses in my community. I was talking about a construction contract that is going to go on in Clyde River. My question is to the Minister of Public Works and Services regarding the construction company that is bidding for the contract. I wanted to find out if he has an update on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 448-13(4): Construction Contract in Clyde River

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The request for a negotiated contract was received by the government some time ago from the community and from the MLA. Cabinet, after reviewing the proposal, decided to support a negotiated contract. One of the conditions we have to follow in the Nunavut area is a 21-day waiting period where we advertise to the general public and to other companies that we do intend to contract through a negotiated process. During this

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21-day waiting period, if another Inuit-owned company expresses any interest in getting the contract, the negotiated contract is cancelled. Then we go to the competitive process. For this particular contract in Clyde River, I had heard unofficially there

had been another company that was interested. I have since checked into that and there has been no official request from any other company so far and, with a few days left to go, there is no other interest expressed. We will be negotiating with this company in the next week or so.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 448-13(4): Construction Contract in Clyde River

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Honourable Mr. Arlooktoo for his answer with regards to the people who are bidding for the contract in Clyde River. They are from Clyde River and they are local people. I am proud of the fact they can receive help from the Minister, Goo Arlooktoo. Can he tell me if the local company of Clyde River can be given some answer to my question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 448-13(4): Construction Contract in Clyde River

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, I cannot give a definite answer as to the exact date when this contract will get started. As I stated earlier, we will wait for about ten more days. If no other people or other company comes forward to bid for this contract, we will work with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 449-13(4): Community Consultation For Access Roads

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Transportation. (Translation

ends)access road contracted before the budget for access road was formed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation. Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 449-13(4): Community Consultation For Access Roads

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I did not quite catch what the honourable Member's question is. It lost something in the translation there. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will repeat my question. Were the communities which requested an access road consulted before the budget for access roads was formed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government has a Community Access Road Policy and all the superintendents in the regions have a copy of this document. I could provide that document to the honourable Members here, so they have a clear idea of how this policy works. According to the policy, there is a process in place that communities have the initiative to provide a proposal working along with the Department of Transportation officials in the field. This proposal then moves forward through the process. Yes, communities are supposed to be consulted on the access road program through our field people in the Department of Transportation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 449-13(4): Community Consultations For Access Roads

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How many communities have requested an access road? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 449-13(4): Community Consultations For Access Roads

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Community Access Road Program is a very popular program. It started out with a very small budget and, over the last few years, we have increased that because of the popularity of it. It is a very good program for the communities to provide access into the hunting areas and into tourist areas. There is a lot of interest in it. Most of the communities in the north are interested in the program. We have only a limited amount of dollars in the program therefore, as I said earlier, it is based on a first come, first served basis. Those that are in the program right now are being funded and there are others that are not. I do not have the exact number of which communities have applied, but I could get that information for the honourable Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 449-13(4): Community Consultations For Access Roads

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the Minister visited my constituency in the High Arctic, he mentioned there was funding available for access roads. After the cuts made to eliminate the deficit, I understand there is only one community that has future year, anticipated funding available for access roads. Will the Minister confirm the program for access roads is to continue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 449-13(4): Community Consultations For Access Roads

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The intention of the Department of Transportation is to carry on with this very popular program that is very helpful to the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, final supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 449-13(4): Community Consultations For Access Roads

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will he evaluate this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 449-13(4): Community Consultations For Access Roads

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We evaluate each program as we move along in the whole process. We evaluate the program as a whole on a yearly basis to see how good these programs are and how effective it is. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Rabesca.

Question 450-13(4): Funding For Bylaw Officers

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for MACA a question regarding the (inaudible) responsibility in our communities. Most of us know the responsibility of a municipality is to provide bylaw enforcement. I would like to know if there is adequate funding for the communities to have proper law enforcements in communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Thompson.

Return To Question 450-13(4): Funding For Bylaw Officers

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there is funding for the bylaw officers training program. If the Member would like to know how much is available in his region, his communities can contact the regional MACA office for that information. There is funding available to train by-law officers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Question 451-13(4): Library Closures

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister responsible for Education. I have brought many petitions to this Assembly from my constituencies. These petitions were about the library closures. I would like to find out if I am going to be receiving answers to these questions I have raised earlier about library closures regarding the petitions I have tabled during this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 451-13(4): Library Closures

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification, there have been no libraries scheduled to be closed in the Northwest Territories. In my budget, the amount of funding that was proposed for contributions in 97/98 for every library in the Northwest Territories is exactly the same as what was received by those libraries in 95/96. There have been no cuts to library funding proposed at all. All that we have proposed is that two people would be laid off, but the contributions to libraries would not be reduced. Two people would be laid off, one in Iqaluit and one in Rankin Inlet.

In response to the Member's question about the petitions, I will have to check on the deadline for the response to those petitions, but the Member can be certain that I will ensure the response is provided with

the set timelines within the rules of this Assembly.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 452-13(4): Federal Involvement in Constitutional Process

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, who is now co-chair of the Constitutional Working Group. Initially the federal government was somewhat remiss in coming to the table and being involved in any active way with the constitutional process in the west. Could the Minister indicate whether the feds are in fact taking a much more pro-active role in terms of outlining their concerns and working with us? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 452-13(4): Federal Involvement in Constitutional Process

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in developing the constitution for the western NWT, and upon tabling the document Partners in October, our next step was to try to secure some funding. It took some time but we were able to secure funding from this government and the Department of Indian Affairs. However, there were concerns by the federal government. Although it took some time, they are now supportive of this process and upon meeting with Ron Irwin at the beginning of last month, there is a willingness for his officials to work with our officials. The role they will be playing is that they will be acting as technicians and trying to come up with different ideas and different options on how to deal with the concerns that have arisen to date and will continue to come up with options and ideas as we go through the ratification through the consultation process when we go to the communities as different concerns arise. There is a technical role that the federal officials will be working with our officials in that capacity. I think that I could say the federal government is playing a bigger role than they have been in the past in regards to working on this constitution for the west. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 452-13(4): Federal Involvement in Constitutional Process

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are not only three models up for discussion in the constitutional package. Another key component is the companion self-government agreement. Could the Minister indicate whether the facilitators will be in a position to speak and address that issue and answer his questions about that very important document as well? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 452-13(4): Federal Involvement in Constitutional Process

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the aboriginal leaders of the Aboriginal Summit are taking the lead role in trying to come up with the companion self-government agreement. This is a very sensitive and kind of a tricky process and this is ongoing at the present time. I mentioned earlier in one of the questions that there was a workshop of the facilitators that are going to help us go into the communities during the consultation process. During the workshop they had, this was also covered. They have an idea of what the companion self-government intention is. During the consultation process, we will be meeting with municipal governments at the same time as dealing with band councils and Metis Nation locals. They have a good idea of the companion self-government during the consultation process as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 452-13(4): Federal Involvement in Constitutional Process

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The ratification process which has been mentioned today is going to be a very important one. One part of the ratification process that has not been talked about much lately, but will no doubt come up because it struck a cord very early on in this process, is the naming of the new western territory and whether we will in fact keep the same old name or move on to something brave and bold that will reflect the progressive change we are trying to make as we move into the 21st century. Will the process that is going to be taken to the communities and the consultation be able to address any questions that may arise in that particular regard? Even though it is not within the clear mandate of the Constitutional Working Group, it is bound to come up.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 452-13(4): Federal Involvement in Constitutional Process

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the name of a territory is going to come up for sure. At this stage of the whole development process, it is difficult for me to tell the honourable Member if the name of the territories should be in the ratification process. I think it is subject to some more discussion. There is some concern out there that a lot of discussion has taken place over the name and if we put the name into part of the ratification process, the intention of the package might be very good. However, if somebody is very supportive of one name, they may vote against a good package in support of a name. Some things have to be ironed out yet. I think we should be discussing this during the consultation process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 452-13(4): Federal Involvement in Constitutional Process

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Minister that clearly those are two very separate questions that have to be able to stand alone on their individual merit, on any type of ballot that may be brought out. Could the Minister confirm, in spite of the personal preferences

that may be demonstrated by MLAs such as myself in terms of a name, that when this issue is discussed and addressed it will be from the same objective point of view as getting feedback for the constitutional package? That we are not going to be trying to sell a particular point of view, but listen to what the people have to say in regards to a name? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 452-13(4): Federal Involvement in Constitutional Process

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the north I have been told many times that everybody has their own opinion. Some of them are very strong opinions and yes, during the consultation process we will remain as objective as we could be. However, if the opportunity arises, I am sure that different people and different participants in this whole process will be expressing their view. It is a free country after all and there is freedom of speech. Therefore, I can say that it would be not objective, but I think I understand what the honourable Member is saying. We have to be very objective in our approach, both in delivering the moving forward and putting this whole discussion forward and then getting feedback from the people in the communities. On the package itself and if the name comes up, then we have to be objective there as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 453-13(4): Summer Student Hiring Program

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for FMBS. It has to do with the summer student hiring program we have. Not the new one that the government has been looking at, but a practice that I am very concerned about has been raised when we have students coming back to the territories to work within the government. The casual positions are left open and people that are in them as that casual position comes to an end, are not continued on for the sake of students being put into that place. In the time of reductions, when some people

out there in our communities are counting quite heavily on these casual jobs, is it a policy of this government to keep casual positions open or to empty them out, so that when students come back north or when the school season is done they have employment? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 453-13(4): Summer Student Hiring Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we have an obligation and a responsibility to our students, we also have an obligation and responsibility to northerners who have to feed their families and have to work and contribute to society as a whole. It is not a policy of this government to leave positions vacant so that students can get them in the summer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 453-13(4): Summer Student Hiring Program

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there a policy for casual positions? Do we have any numbers that would show that a lot of casual positions are not purposely left empty when the spring season comes? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 453-13(4): Summer Student Hiring Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

I want to assure my honourable colleague that it is not the policy of the government for this to take place. If in fact there is some indication that this is happening, I will look into it and report back to him. The policy of this government is to try to get as many people with families and responsibilities hired as we can and casual employment is one component of it. I would

hope that it is not being abused. I will certainly look into it and if it is, I will report to my colleague and this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 453-13(4): Summer Student Hiring Program

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform me as to how long a casual position is allowed to continue before it is considered a full-time position? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 453-13(4): Summer Student Hiring Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A casual position is exactly that, it is a casual position. It is the difference between an indeterminate one and a permanent one. I believe, it is four months, but I would have to double check on it. There is a clause or a condition within there that an employee would have to be laid off and may in fact be rehired if there is a requirement later on, but casual positions are casual.

-- Laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

Question period is over. I would like to recognize in the gallery, the Deputy Commissioner, Dan Marion. Welcome to the Assembly. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return to Written Question 14-13(4): Staffing Appeals

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, return to written question 14-13(4) asked by Mr. Erasmus to the chairman of the Financial Management Board concerning information of staffing appeals.

During the 1995 calendar year, 69 employment offers with the government were appealed. Nineteen staffing appeals were upheld due to competition irregularities and 50 were denied as no irregularities in the competition process were found.

In 1996, 44 staffing appeals were filed. Sixteen of these were upheld due to competition irregularities and 28 were denied as no irregularities in the competition process were found.

Irregularities identified in a competition process may originate from any of the following processes: staffing requisition, advertising, acknowledgements, screening, interviews, ranking, selection and communication with applicants.

The Staffing Appeals Committee determines whether the impact of an identified irregularity has prejudicially affected the appellant's opportunity for appointment, transfer or promotion and either upholds or denies the appeal. Participants in the appeals process are given assurance that information details presented to the committee will be treated in a confidential manner.

I have provided Members with a departmental breakdown of each staffing appeal.

MR. SPEAKER:

Returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports on standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 14-13(4): Policy on Non-Competitive Contracts

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 6, I will move the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that this Legislative Assembly request the Premier to clarify the government's position on government-wide non-competitive

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contracts by providing a draft policy on non-competitive contracts to the standing committees of

this Assembly by March 15, 1997. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Mr. Roland.

Motion 15-13(4): Appointment of an Information and Privacy Commissioner

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 6, I will move the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput that, pursuant to section 61 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the Legislative Assembly recommend to the Commissioner that Elaine Keenan-Bengts be appointed as Information and Privacy Commissioner

AND FURTHER, that pursuant to section 60 of the Act, the Management and Services Board be designated as the committee to carry out the duties and functions of the committee under part 4 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Bravo! Bravo!

MR. SPEAKER:

Notices of motion. Mr. Miltenberger.

Motion 16-13(4): Extended Adjournment

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 6, 1997, I will move the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin Central, that notwithstanding Rule 4, THAT when this House adjourns on March 5, 1997, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, May 27, 1997

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to May 27, 1997, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative

Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned at that time.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to move my motion to appoint the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Roland, you have...

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Nay.

MR. SPEAKER:

You do not have unanimous consent. Motions. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today in regards to extended adjournment.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Thebacha is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion on extended adjournment. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Miltenberger, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 16-13(4): Extended Adjournment

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin Central, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when this House adjourns on March 5, 1997, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, May 27, 1997.

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to May 27, 1997, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned at that time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, that Bill 13, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 1997-98, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects certain inconsistencies and errors in the Statutes of the Northwest Territories. The bill also deals with other matters of a non-controversial and uncomplicated nature in the Statutes and repeals certain statutory provisions that have ceased to have effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Bill 13 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. 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 2-13(4),

Page 1082 Committee Report 3-13(4), Committee Report 4-13(4) and Committee Report 6-13(4), with Mr. Steen in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I call the committee to order. Before the committee for consideration is Bill 2, No. 7, No. 8, No. 9, No. 10 and No. 13; Committee Report 2-13(4), Committee Report 3-13(4), Committee Report 4-13(4) and Committee Report 6-13(4). I would like some direction from the committee as to how to proceed. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That we proceed with Bill 8, the Appropriation Act and Committee Report 2-13(4), Committee Report 3-13(4), Committee Report 4-13(4) and Committee Report 6-13(4) concurrently followed by Bill 7, Bill 2, Bill 9, Bill 10, and Bill 12 in that order. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

We will proceed as indicated after a 15 minute break.

-- Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

We are considering Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997-98. We are considering the Legislative Assembly, page 1-7 and I would like to invite the Speaker, Honourable Sam Gargan, to present his opening comments on the departmental estimates.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the 1997-98 main estimates for the Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly is requesting an expenditure of \$12,539,000 which includes a capital appropriation of \$540,000. When I appeared before the Standing Committee on Government Operations to present the business plan for the Assembly, I indicated as I have on a number of occasions in my term as your Speaker, that the estimates of the Legislative Assembly are expenditures that are driven by legislation and political direction, both of which carry a price tag. I must also reiterate, as you all know, we work in an environment that can and does change from day to

day. The business of the Legislative Assembly, its Cabinet, standing committees and our Nunavut and Western Caucuses are constantly tackling many issues which may require realignment of expenditures. Since all government is downsizing, amalgamating and implementing initiatives such as user pay/user say, it will be difficult to seek new money for this work even though it will need to get done. But we are not asking for new money. We want to lead by example and do the same and more with less.

The main estimates do not contain any increase to Members' indemnities, living allowances or constituency expenses, as the provision for an automatic increase by the consumer price index was deleted from the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. Mr. Chairman, this means that each of us will have to budget very carefully as we will have to do the same amount of work, if not more, with less as the dollars will need to be stretched.

The Management and Services Board has undertaken a number of initiatives that will provide legislative and organizational direction to the Nunavut and Western Legislative Assemblies in 1999. These initiatives include processes for determining the electoral boundaries and general elections for the two new legislatures. The Management and Services Board is also developing options for dealing with post-division pension legislation and a human resource development plan for both Legislatures. It is anticipated that the activities surrounding the first elections for both Territories will require the establishment of election administrations in Nunavut and the western territory. Mr. Chairman, I can assure you that the Management and Services Board, and ultimately this Assembly, are in a good position to assist with a smooth transition in 1999 from a legislative perspective.

The main estimates before you today, Mr. Chairman, include the addition of the transfer of \$2,574,000 which was contained in the Supplementary Appropriation, No. 2, approved on November 30, 1996. This transfer of funds is related to the user pay/user say initiative and deals with the operation and maintenance of the Legislative Assembly building and a number of elements of O and M at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and the transfer of funding associated with vehicle fuel, external mail, removal, recruitment and medical travel assistance.

Mr. Chairman, this is a significant transfer to the Legislative Assembly and expenditure management

measures have been developed to ensure that we do our best to live within the funding transferred. If we do not and operational costs escalate, then we will have to cover our over-expenditures from within the existing funding allocations.

Mr. Chairman, the main estimates provide for the operation of a number of statutory functions that are the responsibility of the Legislative Assembly. These functions include, of course, the Office of the Languages Commissioner who appeared before the Standing Committee on Government Operations to present her budget, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and the new statutory position of Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Commissioner. In addition, if negotiations are successful with the Government of Canada, it is hoped that we will be in a position to appoint the first resident Chief Electoral Officer in the coming fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, I have kept my opening comments brief to provide more time for Members to ask questions on our main estimates. With that, Mr. Chairman, my officials and I would be pleased to answer any questions Members may have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would now like to invite Mr. Erasmus, the chairman of the Government Operations Committee, for the committee's comments on the departmental estimates.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Legislative Assembly, in reviewing the business plan, the committee noted that a number of programs have been assumed under the user say/user pay initiative. The Speaker

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indicated that this initiative will probably result in additional costs to the Assembly beyond what was provided in the transfers from the originating departments. We are concerned about the long-term implications of user say/user pay. We will be monitoring this carefully, not just with the Assembly but with all departments.

The committee noted that the Assembly was preparing for the Electoral Boundary Commissions for the two new territories. Members are aware of the urgency of this work and the Commissions cannot

proceed until decisions regarding the number of ridings are determined at the political level.

Also for the first time, the Languages Commissioner appeared before the standing committee to explain her business plan. The committee is pleased with the efforts of the Commissioner to fulfil her mandate. As part of the business plan, the Commissioner indicated a number of areas that she will be working on over the next year. One of these items, establishing a storefront office, involved a significant increase to her budget. Due to the size of the Commissioner's budget, she is unable to absorb such an expenditure. The committee encourages the Language Commissioner to pursue creative options, possibly with other small offices or shared storefront space at a reasonable cost. Mr. Chairman, that concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. I would like to ask the Speaker, Honourable Sam Gargan, if he would like to have witnesses present.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to bring in the witnesses and seat them. I would like to invite Mr. Gargan to introduce his witnesses please.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. David Hamilton, and to my right is our finance administrator, Mr. Myles Moreside.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Welcome to the Assembly. I now open the floor to general comments. I have Mr. Picco for general comments.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Legislative Assembly is unique within the territorial government. It must recognize and respond to factors such as fiscal restraint, division and the changing nature of government which will effect all departments of this government. However, it must also remain separate and distinct from the overall government structure in order to fulfil its role as a legislative body accountable to the electorate, the people who put us here in this Assembly, in this building. The Legislative Assembly is more than just a building. It also has to adjust to the changing way we do business, to improve efficiencies in the consensus decision making that we have and will have as the constant impact on operating environment over the next few years, leading to the creation of two new territories. In the main estimates book and result statements under program overview, the Legislative Assembly, in giving their report, makes the statement which I will have questions on later, Mr. Chairman. One of those statements which I will mention right now is that the Legislative Assembly intends to ensure that there are two independent, fully functioning Legislative Assemblies ready to serve the people of the two new territories well in advance of April 1999. I will be asking some direct questions to the Speaker and his staff on these two independent, fully functioning Legislative Assemblies and how far in advance of 1999 will they intend to make sure that those two independent, fully functioning Legislative Assemblies are up and running or willing to take over on April 1, 1999. Those are just my general comments on the Legislative Assembly. I look forward to direct questions to the staff at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Are there any further general comments under departmental estimates? If not, does the committee agree we can go activity by activity?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. We will now turn to page 1-8, Office of the Clerk, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$6,962,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 1-9, detail of capital, Office of the Clerk, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$540,000. Mr. Roland and Mr. Picco. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of capital site paving program, can the Speaker or staff state the reasons why we are looking at doing capital site paving? Are there specific reasons for it besides trying to have an up-to-date facility? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Gargan.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Mr. Chairman, there are two reasons why we want to have the Legislative Assembly grounds paved. One is with regards to having ongoing protection on the grounds itself. The second is with regards to the handicapped bylaws of the city, which requires paved parking space for handicapped people.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. I have operations and maintenance, total region, \$540,000. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I did not get your attention in time on 1-8 on Office of the Clerk. I seek consent to ask some questions on that area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. If you do not mind, I will try and finish the detail of capital that I have here on page 1-9, then I will ask the committee for their approval to move to 1-8. Total region, \$540,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total buildings and works, \$540,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. Total activity, \$540,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that we return to page 1-8, Office of the Clerk?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, colleagues. I said in my opening comments, Mr. Chairman, that the Legislative Assembly in their mains, which we are dealing with right now, gave an overview of one of their initiatives and one of their objectives to have two Legislative Assemblies up and running well in advance of April 1st, 1999. I would like to ask the Speaker what is the Legislative Assembly doing to help facilitate the operations of two new Legislative Assemblies on April 1st, 1999?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, in order to implement a plan for Nunavut, we still need the interim commissioner to select people. With regard to development of both east and west, we are developing a comprehensive human resource plan to support both Assemblies and provide training and development specific to supporting the staffing and development of a new Nunavut Legislature, to ensure that trained and experienced human resources continue to be available in a new western Legislative Assembly, and develop program initiatives that will support the development of the necessary skills and recruitment for both the Nunavut and western

Legislative Assembly, and enhance personal team and organizational creativity and innovation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the area is under the Office of the Clerk, like the library, which is mentioned here on page 1-8. In the Legislative Library of the Northwest Territories, all documentation of policies, procedures, events that have taken place within this government, and things like a fuel spill somewhere in Nunavut would have been documented and would be filed in the Legislative Library. Can the Speaker tell me what this government is doing at the present time to make sure duplicate copies of all this important information for follow-up is being located and re-located from here to the capital of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Gargan.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Mr. Chairman, the Assembly has been gathering duplicate Hansards for the last year and a half and duplicating all the material that is necessary for transfer to Nunavut, including CD-ROMs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

With all this information on CD-ROMs, Hansards, directions, and policies of this government that are going to have to be transferred before April 1st, 1999, where is that stuff being held right now? Is there a big warehouse somewhere? Is it just in boxes on the floor? Is it being catalogued and does it have to be re-catalogued when it gets to the capital of Nunavut before April 1st, 1999? What is happening with that documentation today?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. I believe it is all being sent to your house.

-- Laughter

Mr. Gargan.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the materials that are in the libraries are catalogued. Some of them are stored here in the shelves of the library and others are stored elsewhere.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

I do have a nice house in Iqaluit. Thank you very much for the compliment, but it is not big enough to sort all the documentation that we are talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, is it safe to say this documentation is being assimilated here in Yellowknife and being catalogued to be transferred to Nunavut before April 1st, 1999? It might be the responsibility of the new interim commissioner to hire a librarian on behalf of the Nunavut government to make sure this stuff is re-catalogued and filed. Is that what the Speaker is telling me?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Gargan.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you. Once the interim commissioner is in place and there is a facility to store the material, then it will be transferred.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last supplementary, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I hope the regional librarian is still in place to help facilitate this in a couple of months. On the staffing of the new Legislative Assembly, having been a bit naive about the operations of this Assembly before I came here, I now understand more about what happens behind the scenes and the amount of logistical work, analytical work, administrative work, that is put into place to make sure that this Assembly works. Leading up to division, Mr. Hamilton, the Clerk, said that there was some training. The Speaker mentioned it. Can they update me on what is happening with the mentoring,

on the job training and the hiring of staff so that they could be trained under the professionalism and the auspices of Mr. Hamilton, par excellence as his role is recognized, Mr. Chairman, all over the parliamentary system for his work. I wonder when the people will be hired and trained under Mr. Hamilton's office for

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a further role on April 1st. I am trying to ask a question, if I could have the co-operation of my colleagues. Mr. Chairman, I would like to have the co-operation of my colleagues.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Can we have order in the House please. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am trying to ask a question on the staffing of the new Legislative Assembly in Nunavut. I am wondering when the training programs and these people will be in place and maybe a little bit of information on what type of mentoring or what type of on the job training is being contemplated for these staff? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Gargan.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have already explained what we have in the direction that we are taking now. There is not much we can do because under the Nunavut Act, the interim commissioner is the one that recruits the people that are going to be required for this training to take over the future Assemblies. That is all I can say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. I now recognize Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I seek consent to go back to details of capital on page 1-9, capital site paving program of Yellowknife, \$500,000. A very quick question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. O'Brien. Are we on the same page, page 1-8? I think you are on detail of capital. I am sorry, I missed your question. Could I ask you to repeat the question?

MR. O'BRIEN:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. My question was one of further clarification of details on the 1997/98 capital site paving program for Yellowknife, total value, \$500,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. I can ask the committee to go back to detail of capital after we have finished with page 1-8. I will ask again. Operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance on page 1-8, \$6,962,000. I recognize Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on 1-8, Office of the Clerk, could the clerk's office indicate what role they are going to play logistically, financially, and administratively in the upcoming plebiscite on the gender parity issue in the Nunavut region?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Gargan.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

I will ask Mr. Hamilton to respond to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Hamilton.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the auspices of the CCON, the Co-ordinating Committee on Officials of Nunavut, guidelines have been drafted on the possibility of holding a public vote on the gender parity question for the first Nunavut Legislature. These guidelines are presently being developed and have now gone forward to the federal government to see if the federal government is prepared to fund the holding of this public vote. It is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of \$350,000 to hold this vote on gender parity. The matter is now before the federal government to see if they are prepared to fund the vote. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Hamilton. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, does that include the enumeration and the operation of polling booths?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Picco, are you asking questions in relation to office of the Chief Electoral Officer on page 1-12?

MR. PICCO:

I think it could be asked in either area, Mr. Chairman. For clarification, it is being run out of the Clerk's office as the Clerk is often asked that question under the Chief Electoral Officer. The Chief Electoral Officer is not present, so I am asking the question to the Office of the Clerk.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. I would just like to remind the Members that you will have an opportunity to ask more questions on Chief Electoral Officer when we reach that page. Mr. Gargan.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

I will ask Mr. Hamilton to respond.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Hamilton.

MR. HAMILTON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount that is estimated does include the total operation of a partial enumeration and revision. The plan would be to use municipal lists from the last election in the municipalities with the exception of Iqaluit where we are proposing a more comprehensive enumeration of that community if a vote is to be held.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Hamilton. I have operations and maintenance, page 1-8. Total operations and maintenance, \$6,962,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Now I am again going to ask the Members if they would agree to return to detail of capital. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. That is on page 1-9, detail of capital, Office of the Clerk, total region, \$540,000. I recognize Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is basically that I wanted some further detail and elaboration on

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the necessity to spend \$540,000 on this paving program for the Legislature and the capital site. I ask that question in reference to the other more serious needs we may have, i.e., shortage of housing and so on and so forth, the fact that Mr. Roland's centre, Delta House, had to be shut down, so just from a clarification detail standpoint.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Mr. Chairman, this building here is the centre of all government for the territories and requires on-going improvement. As such, we decided this year that Members have expressed a concern during the last few years of dignitaries coming here and looking at the sad state of the access roads that come to this building. That is the reason why we have decided to spend it. They have done geotech work on the site itself already. We do not know the results of it, but once the geotech is in, we probably would be able to say whether or not we will be spending that amount or less.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I heard the chairman indicate earlier there was a bylaw in place that necessitated the paving of this area. Could we have a

little more detail as to how the bylaw is made up and what it consists of? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Mr. Chairman, the city of Yellowknife does have bylaws, but also they have a capital site development plan that we have to follow to. Those are some of the requirements necessary in order to satisfy the city.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Chairman, do you have this scope of work that will take place over this \$500,000, a general breakdown of what areas are to be paved?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

I do not know, Mr. Chairman, the geotech has been done. We do not have the results of the geotech work yet. I do not know what the details will be. I will ask Mr. Hamilton to respond.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Hamilton.

MR. HAMILTON:

Mr. Chairman, the extent of the capital site paving program takes into account the capital site from the highway on the outside of the access to the main site. It includes the whole site in front of the building, the parking lot and access to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. The whole capital site is under a jointly-managed development plan that has been approved with the Government of the Northwest Territories through the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, the city of Yellowknife and the government as partners in the whole development site. There are certain bylaw building restrictions within the site. It includes the whole site, any construction that is beside the site such as the RCMP building, Department of National Defence, and any of the city buildings that surround the site. This

development plan calls for certain things that have to be carried out to comply with the jointly-managed plan of the city and of the government. Mr. Chairman, one of the items we are complying with is the need for the upkeep and access for emergency vehicles within the city plan, and within the city bylaws and their building construction needs which vary differently from community to community in the north.

Mr. Chairman, the city also has a bylaw that says any parking lot that has designated parking for disabled and handicapped people has to be paved. Mr. Chairman, we were identified that the capital site under the joint management was only one of two people not complying with that bylaw, ourselves and the Wal-Mart store or one of the stores that did not have parking paved. We are endeavouring to comply and also to enhance the site and ensure the site is in its best condition for the next 100 years that this building will be here and on this site. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

-- Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. O'BRIEN:

Final comment, Mr. Chairman. It seems that we appear to be spending a fair bit of money on paving various areas and parking lots and whatever else. It is not my intention to oppose this, but I have some reservations with it when I think that we are still landing on gravel runways in the eastern Arctic. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Good point. Good point.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. I gather that is a comment rather than a question, Mr. O'Brien. I will now recognize Mr. Ootes.

AN HON. MEMBER:

He has defected.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, has the city of Yellowknife written to the Legislative Assembly on the aforementioned bylaw requesting pavement by the Legislative Assembly by the city of Yellowknife?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Gargan.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Mr. Chairman, the city of Yellowknife have inspectors that inspect the site for safety for vehicles. One of the things that they did say was our roads are not in condition to take care of those vehicles. So we have been cited, saying that we are not abiding by their bylaws.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand now that under the Yellowknife bylaws, the Legislative Assembly has been cited for not keeping up with their code for the road access. Is that correct?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Gargan.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Yes, we have been cited for signage violation and also for disabled vehicles parking.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

But, it has not been cited for the actual paving. It has been cited for handicapped access which could be just a ramp and the signage. We all understand about signage because I guess we are going to be driving around on those signs. Is that correct? Am I reading this correctly? Has it been cited for the handicapped access which could just be a ramp built and signage has nothing to do with the paving?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Gargan.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Mr. Chairman, we have been cited because we do not have paving for disabled people in our parking lot.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. I am on total region, \$540,000. I recognize Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would think such an astute citizen as the honourable Member from Iqaluit would know that breaking the law is breaking the law whether you are cited or not. We of the Legislative Assembly should be setting an example and not breaking city bylaws.

-- Applause

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear! Hear!

MR. ERASMUS:

I see a young man in a wheelchair come here periodically. He seems to have a hard time wheeling himself over the gravel. I would imagine this is why the bylaw was passed and why the city wants us to comply. Is this correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Is there a question there, Mr. Erasmus? Mr. Gargan.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Mr. Chairman, this is a public building. The issue of access by the public also includes handicapped people. The city has lowered all of the corners on every street in the city, in order for disabled people to go up onto sidewalks. It is all part of their development plan.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is time we moved on. We would not be setting the best example if we were the only public building in town that was not following the city bylaws. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Your comment is noted. I recognize Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we should clarify something here. Although I am not as legally astute as my friend, Mr. Erasmus, the whole point of the questioning here today has brought out the fact that we are in circumvention of a bylaw. I did not say I was trying to impede the Legislative Assembly in breaking laws.

You have \$500,000 here for pavement. As some people have mentioned earlier, you can make an easy decision \$2 or \$3 million in cutting programs and facilities. I think it is a good point for the people to see you are actually debating this issue. It is not being passed over. That is my point here. Is it people or pavement? It did not come before me in any of the committees I looked at that approved this. My final question is, if we did not pave it, can we take that \$500,000 to allow for wheelchair access in the parking lots? If not, that is fine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have some order here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. I would like to caution Members about provoking each other with comments of a personal nature, responding in an argumentative manner. Mr. Gargan, can you answer the Member's question?

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the paving, it is for access for the public to and from the building. If there is no improvement, then we also have the liability issue we have to address.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. I am on total region, \$540,000. I recognize Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder where this fiery rhetoric and passion was when we whipped through the Housing Corporation's \$100 million in fifteen minutes with barely a question. Now we are doing cartwheels around our desks, belabouring a small issue as we try to take care of the business of this government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. I would suggest you are out of order, Mr. Miltenberger. Total region, \$540,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total buildings and works, \$540,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total activity, \$540,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Office of the Speaker, page 1-10, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$146,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Expenditures on behalf of Members, page 1-11, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$4,535,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, page 1-12, operations and maintenance. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, I had some questions earlier on the upcoming plebiscite in May. I noticed that the budget is only \$25,000. I am sorry, \$5,000. I wonder, is the Legislative Assembly in its preparation of administration work that we are working at right now to help get this up and running, is there enough money in that budget for 97/98 for the gender vote? These estimates were put together before that came out.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. I will again remind Members to keep their comments and questions to the subject before the Committee. Mr. Gargan.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Five thousand dollars is all we have. Regarding the Chief Electoral Officer position, there is a transfer. There will be a contribution agreement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Gargan?

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

This would be with regard to the gender parity plebiscite. There will be a contribution agreement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We fully expect then, under this line item, that the total cost of the gender vote would be covered by the federal government. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Gargan.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

That has been anticipated, Mr. Chairman. It is not final yet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Is there any early indication when the federal government will be finalizing this? There is a lot of administrative and analytical work to be done beforehand.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Gargan. Mr. Hamilton.

MR. HAMILTON:

Mr. Chairman, the matter is at the discussion level between officials of NTI, NIC and the Government of the Northwest Territories. It is my understanding that once the guidelines have been approved, they will be taken forward to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs within the next week, to seek his approval if the federal government will fund the public vote on gender parity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Hamilton. Total operations and maintenance, \$5,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Commissioner of Official Languages, page 1-13, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$351,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Information item, page 1-14, active position. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the active positions, I have a question concerning the affirmative action candidates that are actually working here in the Legislative Assembly. What percentage of our

employees here at the Legislative Assembly are affirmative action candidates?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Gargan.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Mr. Chairman, we have 30 staff working here in the building, 16 of which are affirmative action candidates, which includes P1s and P2s, 51 percent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Active position. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. I will now ask Members to return to page 1-7, program summary, Legislative Assembly, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$11,999,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total capital, \$540,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total expenditures, \$12,539,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that the departmental estimates are concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. I would like to thank the Speaker and the witnesses. Does the committee agree that Committee Report 2, 3 and 4 are concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. I will deal with the next item, Committee Report 6-13(4), Standing Committee on Social Programs. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Enuaraq.

Committee Motion 40-13(4): To Provide a Comprehensive List of Subsidies to the Social Programs Committee

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MR. ENUARAQ:

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

I MOVE that this committee recommends that a comprehensive list of subsidies available through the social envelope should be provided to the Standing Committee on Social Programs by September 1, 1997.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the present time, there are dozens of subsidies that are available through the social envelope. There are even some outside of the social envelope, such as in MACA. It is very difficult to determine where to make changes unless you can look at the overall picture. At this time, there does not seem to be a comprehensive list of subsidies. The Social Envelope Committee wants to have this comprehensive list prepared so we will be able to do a better job in the future. We have put a date of

September 1, 1997, by which we would like to have the list completed by. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Enuaraq.

Committee Motion 41-13(4): To Provide a Plan for the Integration of Seniors' Programs and Subsidies

MR. ENUARAQ:

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

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I MOVE that this committee recommends a plan to integrate the GNWT subsidies and seniors should be provided to the Standing Committee on Social Programs by September 1, 1997.

AND FURTHER, that the seniors' programs and subsidies integration should be developed in consultation with the NWT Seniors' Society, addressing the idea of consolidating all programs for seniors under one authority, contain an action plan for implementing the reform of senior subsidies and programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee is making this motion again because there are various subsidies and programs for seniors. They do not seem to be integrated and well co-ordinated. For instance, some subsidies and programs are available at the age of 60 and some are available at age 65. We want the government to integrate all these subsidies and programs so they are more consistent. We also want this done in consultation with the NWT Seniors' Society, rather than coming to them with a plan and saying: "what do you think of it?" The Seniors' Society has indicated they wish to work in conjunction with the government in developing this plan and we agree. Also, the Seniors' Society had indicated they would like to have all their programs for seniors under one authority. We know as people get more elderly, it is a lot harder to get around, especially in a place like Yellowknife where you can go to 10 different buildings

for 10 different departments. That is the reason we want to consolidate the programs for seniors under one authority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Enuaraq.

Committee Motion 42-13(4): To Provide an Analysis of the Impacts of User Say/User Pay

MR. ENUARAQ:

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

I MOVE that this committee recommend that each department in the social envelope provide analysis of the financial and operational impact of each user say/user pay initiative to the Standing Committee on Social Programs by October 1997. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, because user-pay/user-say initiatives cross all government departments, I wonder if the mover of the motion could explain exactly why, for example, they go to a government office and ask for all departments to come up with this because of logistic information, the cost of bringing this for just one committee when I guess all committees might be interested in it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. I believe the Member for Iqaluit is directing a question towards the Member from Baffin Central, Mr. Enuaraq. Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask my deputy chair of social programs, Mr. Miltenberger, to respond.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not paying complete and undivided attention to the words that Mr. Picco uttered. However, I think the concern was why did we not take this to government ops and that is a good suggestion. It has been raised and I think it is something that will be coming to government ops, but we do have a specific concern in our committee. I think government ops, and hopefully other committees as well, will look at this issue so that we can put forward a broader request. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. To the motion. Are there any further comments? Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Mr. Enuaraq.

Committee Motion 43-13(4): To Develop an Approach to Deal with Forced Growth

MR. ENUARAQ:

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

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Minister of Health and Social Services, in consultation with the other social envelope Ministers, prepare a list of current services available to address the booming population both pre- and post-natal, as well as the location of these services.

AND FURTHER, that the social envelope partners develop a joint approach to deal with the fundamental issues causing forced growth in social programs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? Thank you. Are there any other further comments on Committee Report 6-13(4)? Does the committee agree that Committee Reports 2, 3, 4, and 6 are concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. Committee Reports 2, 3, 4, and 6 are concluded.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

We will now return to Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997/98. I would like to remind Members it is in the green binder. Bill 8. The first page of Bill 8. Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997/98. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 1, clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 2, schedule, part 1, vote 1, operations and maintenance, appropriation, \$1,005,986,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Part 2, vote 2, capital, capital appropriation, \$139,377,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total appropriation, \$1,145,363,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Does the committee agree that Bill 8 is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Bill 8 is now ready for third reading.

-- Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

May I suggest a five minute break?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

-- Break

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

The committee will come back to order. We are on Bill 7, Municipal Statutes Amending Act. Does the Minister have any opening remarks?

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes I do. Thank you. This bill is the result of a partnership between the department and NWT Association of Municipalities. The Association has participated in the municipal legislation review since it first began in May, 1995. We are very grateful for the important contribution made by the members and the staff of the association, in particular, President Dennis Bevington. We look forward to continuing this partnership through the next phase of the legislation review. The association was represented at both the steering committee and the working group levels of the review committee. The working group also included representatives from the Association of Municipal Administrators of the NWT and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. I believe that the participation of the stakeholders, as well as experienced staff, has resulted in amendments that will work.

I know that communities are looking forward to these amendments. Many of the changes in this bill are long overdue. Some of the changes will be important for community empowerment, especially the new provisions allowing hamlets and chartered communities to borrow on a long term basis for land development. The new provision allows communities to enter into agreements with the GNWT to receive responsibility for programs and services.

Other provisions will simply make it easier for municipalities to carry out their day-to-day businesses. At this time, I would like to acknowledge the important role the Standing Committee on Infrastructure has played throughout the process of developing this bill. They have been very supportive of our goal of making changes to legislation, which will strengthen community government. I thank them for their support.

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I should indicate to committee members that some changes were made to the bill during the review by the Standing Committee on Infrastructure. The most important change is the removal of the tax sales provisions. The other recommendation concerns minor changes to the provisions on the chief municipal electoral officer, long-term leasing of personal property and refunds for over-payments of

property taxes. I am pleased to say I am in full support of these changes. I would be happy to discuss these changes in more detail later.

This bill represents phase 1 of the municipal legislation review. Many of the amendments of the bill are in response to resolutions passed by the Association of Municipalities at its annual general meetings. Other necessary changes were identified by GNWT staff. The primary goal for phase 1 of our legislation review was to make changes needed right away to help councils meet their responsibilities. I believe we have achieved this goal.

This bill is only the first step. Our next goal will be to rewrite the tax sales provision and re-introduce them as a new bill. Changes to the broadened municipal borrowing powers could also be included in this bill. At the same time, we will be pursuing phase 2, which will produce broader changes to the powers and responsibilities of community governments.

As I said a moment ago, the participation of the Association of Municipalities and other stakeholders have been invaluable to the legislative review. I believe this bill is an example of high quality results that meaningful consultation can produce. I am confident that I can assure committee members that these amendments will benefit all NWT residents by helping community governments to do their jobs more effectively. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Minister Thompson. At this time would the Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee, which reviewed the bill, like to present the committee's comments on the bill? Thank you, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Bill 7, Municipal Statutes Amending Act, proposes to amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the Hamlets Act, the Charter of Communities Act, the Settlements Act, the Local Authorities Election Act and the Property Assessment and Taxation Act.

The proposed amendments include: provisions which will allow councils to enter into lease agreements not exceeding 10 years, providing the authority to transfer GNWT programs and services to municipal corporations, allowing both tax and non-tax based municipal corporations to borrow for land development, reducing maximum period for giving

notice to a municipal corporation from 60 to 30 days, and also for providing for the appointment of chief municipal electoral officer.

Madam Chairperson, while reviewing the bill, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs proposed amendments. The largest of these amendments removed the entire tax sales provision. Other amendments proposed by the Minister made minor changes regarding the chief municipal electoral officer, long-term leasing of personal property and refunds on the overpayment of taxes. Madam Chairperson, the Standing Committee on Infrastructure supported these amendments and moved motions to amend the bill in standing committee.

The Committee held public hearings on the bill on February 19th and 26th, 1997. During these meetings, committee members heard a presentation by the Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities. The Association identified its strong support for the proposed amendments and outlined its high level of involvement while developing the bill. The Committee also heard a presentation asking that the bill be amended to allow municipalities to borrow from a variety of sources when seeking short and long term funding. Committee recognizes such amendments are outside the scope of this bill, but remains interested in the proposal and looks forward to a more detailed review at the appropriate time.

The Committee members raised a concern with the long term borrowing provisions of this bill. Under the proposed legislation, communities would be able to borrow for the development of up to three years worth of lot demand and then pay back the loan with revenues from leasing the lots. Members noted that this could place communities at risk and questioned the reliability of leased revenue.

Keeping in mind these concerns, Madam Chairperson, the Standing Committee on Infrastructure passed a motion that Bill 7, the Municipal Statutes Amending Act, be reported to the Assembly as ready for consideration in the committee of the whole, as amended and reprinted. Following the clause by clause review of this bill, Members identified a subsequent concern regarding the maximum period for giving notice to a municipal corporation. The bill outlines that this maximum period would be decreased from 60 to 30 days. Members wanted to provide communities with the flexibility to establish a longer notice period by bylaw. Members felt that this flexibility would help meet the unique

needs of remote northern communities. The committee will be introducing a motion to this effect during the clause by clause deliberations. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Does the committee agree that we should invite the Minister to bring witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Would the Minister like to bring witnesses?

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms, please if he would. Madam Minister,

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would you like to introduce your witnesses for the record please?

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chair. To my left is my deputy minister of MACA, Penny Ballantyne, to my right is Denise Gagnon from legal council for legislative council.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you very much. Welcome to you and your staff. General comments on the bill. Are there any general comments? If there are no general comments, we will proceed to go clause by clause in consideration of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Could I please direct all the Members' attention to Bill 7 in your green binders. Bill 7, reprint, Municipal Statutes Amending Act, clause 1, page 1. Municipal

Statutes Amending Act, part 1, Charter Communities Act, clause 1. Mr. Steen.

Committee Motion 44-13(4): To Amend Sub-clause 1(9) of Bill 7: Municipal Statutes Amending Act

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I MOVE that sub-clause 1(9) of Bill 7 be amended by deleting proposed paragraph (a) and by substituting the following: (a) notice is given to the senior administrative officer in writing within 30 days after the damage was sustained or within such a period of time as a council may by bylaw designate.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. The intent of this motion is to provide communities with some flexibility in setting notice periods which meet the needs of the residents of the communities. Right now the law is that a person who has suffered damages from no repair must notify the municipality within 60 days of suffering the damage. Bill 7 proposes to reduce that period to 30 days. This is in response to an NWT Association of Municipality motion which proposed a notice period of 14 days. However, in some communities a longer notice period than 30 days may be fairer to the residents of the community. For example, in some communities where boats are parked for the winter by a road, it might be more appropriate to have a longer notice period for damage, because sometimes the damage would not be discovered until summer when the boat is used.

The effect of my motion to amend this clause would allow the community to adapt a different longer notice period, if it is felt that is appropriate for the residents of the community. This issue was discussed in the Infrastructure Committee and had the general support of Members of that committee. I urge all Members to support this motion.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

-- Applause

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 1 as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Part 2, page 8, Cities, Towns and Villages Act, clause 2. Mr. Steen.

Committee Motion 45-13(4): To Amend Sub-clause 2(7) of Bill 7: Municipal Statutes Amending Act

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I MOVE that sub-clause 2(7) of Bill 7 be amended by deleting proposed paragraph (a) and by substituting the following: Notices given to the City Administrative Officer in writing within 30 days after the damage was sustained or within such longer period of time that the council may by bylaw designate. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

I would like to indicate to the committee, the motion achieved is the same as the motion to amend clause 1 and because there are three different municipal statutes being amended, we must move these three separate motions.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Part 2, Cities, Towns and Villages Act, clause 2 as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Moving on to page 14, part 3, Hamlets Act, clause 3. Mr. Steen.

Committee Motion 46-13(4): To Amend Sub-clause 3(6) of Bill 7: Municipal Statutes Amending Act

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I MOVE that sub-clause 3(6) of Bill 7 be amended by deleting a portion of paragraph (a) and by substituting the following: (a) Notice is given to the Senior Administrative Officer in writing within 30 days after the damage is sustained or within such longer period of time as the council may by bylaw designate. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Part 3, Hamlets Act, clause 3 as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Turning now to page 20, part 4, Local Authorities Elections Act, clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed. Thank you. Page 24, part 5, Property Assessment and Taxation Act, clause 5. All those agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Page 27, part 6, Settlements Act, clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed. Thank you. Page 29, part 7, Commencement Clause 7. Agreed. Thank you. Bill as a whole. Agreed. Thank you. Does the committee agree Bill 7 is ready for third reading as amended? Agreed. Thank you. Bill 7 is now ready for third reading as amended. Thank you, Madam Minister. Thank you, Mrs. Ballantyne. Could I please direct the Members' attention to Bill 2, Justice Administration Statutes Amending Act. Would the Minister like to make opening remarks?

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the Justice Administration Statutes Amending Act will make minor amendments for four Acts that relate to the administration of justice in the Northwest Territories. The most significant of these amendments are in the aid of introducing cost efficiencies and the administration of the courts. The rest are minor corrections to the relevant acts. The Fine Options Act is amended so that a reference to a notice of fine form or fine card is replaced by a fine order, which is the new term used in amendments to the Criminal Code which came into force on September 3rd, 1996.

Provisions are added to the Judicature Act to empower judges of the Supreme Court to also act as judges of the Territorial Court and as justices of the peace. This will potentially reduce delays and the number of court circuits by allowing a Supreme Court Judge to hear matters which now can only be heard by a Territorial Court Judge or a justice of the peace. Another change of how the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal to convene meetings of judges of that court to consider matters pertaining to the administration of justice. These meetings will be paid for by the federal government under the authority of the Judge's Act.

The Judicature Act is also amended to correct outdated references of the court which the judges of the Court of Appeal may be appointed to provide for the closure of the offices of court registries when the clerk and other officers are on mandatory unpaid leave and to clarify an existing regulation, making power permits the enactment of regulations respecting the reimbursement of expenses for interpreters and witnesses. The Jury Act is amended so that a current provision permitting the sheriff to summon a potential juror, a personnel service or by registered mail is expanded to permit a summons to be left with another member of a person's household or to be sent by any class of mail. This avoids the cost of repeated attempts to serve a person. The person so served would not be guilty of failing to obey the

summons unless he or she has acknowledged the summons. Several provisions would also be amended to correct errors in the French version.

In the Justice of the Peace Act, the composition of the Justice of the Peace Review Council was changed to delete the representative of the Minister of Justice and to provide for a second representative of the public to be appointed by the Commissioner in the Executive Council. This is necessary because of the decision of the Court of Appeal in the Temela Group of cases which criticized the appointment by the Minister of members of the judicial council, which reviews complaints brought by members of the public against the Territorial Court Judges. The same logic applies to members of the review counsel which is responsible for the discipline of Justices of the Peace. Madam Chair that concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. On behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, which reviewed the bill, Mr. Roland, do you have any comments?

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Programs I would like to report on our review of Bill 2, the Justice Administration Statutes Amending Act. The committee originally reviewed Bill 2 in November, 1996. On February 20, 1997, we held a public hearing on Bill 2, with a presentation from the Minister of Justice. No public stakeholders expressed concerns with Bill 2. The Bill amends four acts as outlined by the Minister in his opening comments. Members had no specific concerns with the amendments concerning the Fine Option Act, the Judicature Act and the Justices of the Peace Act. Members expressed interest in the changes in the Jury Act, the amendment will make service of jury summons less stringent. Members were concerned about the potential for misunderstanding when a person is served with a jury summons. This becomes even more of a concern when the person receiving the summons is unilingual and does not understand what the summons says. The Minister explained the procedure for service and highlighted efforts made to ensure people understand what is expected of them. Members questioned the current system of jury selection. In many communities people do not understand why relatives of an accused are included on the list of potential jurors. The principal of providing an unbiased jury was discussed

with an explanation of why the initial list should never be pre-screened, even for relatives. The Standing Committee on Social Programs has completed its review and has no major concerns with the proposed bill. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Would the Minister like to bring witnesses?

HON. KELVIN NG:

Not at this time, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. General comments on the bill? There are no general comments. We will move to clause-by-clause. Bill 2, Justice Administration Statutes Amending Act, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed. Thank you. Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed. Thank you. Moving to page 2, clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed. Thank you. Page 3, clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed. Thank you. To the bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed. Does the committee agree Bill 2 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed. Thank you. Bill 2 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Mr. Ng. Does the committee agree that next we will consider Bill 9, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1996/97?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed. Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister for joining us. Would the Minister have any opening remarks?

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Chair. The purpose of the Forgiveness of Debt Act, 1996/97 is to authorize the forgiveness of certain debts listed in the schedule to the Act. Pursuant to Section 25(1) of the Financial Administration Act, the forgiveness of debt or obligation to the government exceeding \$1,000 must receive Legislative Assembly approval. When a debt is forgiven, no further collection action shall be pursued. There are forgivenesses which are being proposed and this Act will not require a new appropriation. Allowances for downfall accounts were charged to an appropriation at the time it was determined that collection of the debts were considered unlikely. The accounts were recommended for forgiveness are the result of compromise settlements and/or are in the public interest. The cases where a compromise settlement was reached, the following factors were being considered: the possibility of future recoveries, the cost of continued legal actions and the value of the security, for example, do the personal guarantees hold a realizable worth? Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time we will ask Mr. Miltenberger representing the Government Operations Committee to make the committee's comments on Bill 9.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. The Standing Committee on Government Operations has considered Bill 9, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1996/97. Bill 9 includes forgiveness of nine debts which are negotiated settlements. It is our understanding the committee has limited discretion to change any of the negotiated settlements. These debts are the ones which cause us the most concern. In a number of cases, there appeared to be inadequate analysis by the lender on the potential of the viability of the proposed business venture. In one case, the loan recipient received funds from the GNWT without ever putting in the equity they had committed to. This seems to be a fundamental breach of the loan process. We recognize these debts are a number of years old. We hope the government and, in particular, the business development fund administrators are now more carefully determining which loan applications should be approved. We look forward to the completion of the Business Credit Corporation review which should address our concerns. The items which are presented in the public interest could be reconsidered. However, the committee is supportive of the reasons of forgiveness in each of these cases. Madam Chair, the Standing Committee on Government Operations has completed its review of Bill 9 and we hope in the future we can see fewer cases of forgiveness where the loans should not have been given in the first place. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. At this time I will ask the Minister if he would like to bring in any witnesses?

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do not know if they are there, but if not I will answer the questions. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Is the committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to check and see if there are any witnesses. Mr. Minister, could you please introduce your witness for the record.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Chair. With me on my immediate right is Mr. Lou Voytilla. I was thinking about something else and then it was on there.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Welcome, Mr. Voytilla. General comments. Are there any general comments on the bill? If there are no general comments, we will move to clause by clause. Bill 9 in your binders. Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1996/97, page 1, clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed. Thank you. Page 2, schedule, debts forgiven, total, \$686,765.63.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed. Thank you. Bill 9 as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Does the committee agree that Bill 9 is ready for third reading?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed. Thank you. Bill 9 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Thank you, Mr. Todd. Thank you. Next on our list is Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 1996/97. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Madam Chair, I wonder if we can change that to Bill 12, to consider that first?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Is the committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed. Thank you. Bill 12, Student Financial Assistance Act. Would Minister Dent have any opening remarks?

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Bill 12, an Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, will increase the maximum aggregate of the principal amounts of loans outstanding under the Act. The current schedule lists that amount as \$18 million. Bill 12 proposes to increase the amount to \$20 million for the fiscal year 1996/97 and to \$21 million in 1997/98, and subsequent years. The student loan fund was established in 1982. It has provided financial assistance to an increasing number of students in post-secondary programs. The amount of loans issued continues to exceed the amount of loans repaid, remitted, or written off each year. This is due to the increasing number of students accessing the program and higher education costs. Without a funding increase, there may not be sufficient funds for all new or continuing students to receive loans. Madam Chair, that concludes my opening remarks. I will be pleased to answer any questions Members may have about Bill 12.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Minister Dent. At this time I will ask Mr. Miltenberger, on behalf of the Social Programs Committee, to present the committee's comments upon review of the bill. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs has completed its review of Bill 12, an Act to Amend the Students Financial Assistance Act. The Department of Education, Culture, and Employment needs to amend the Act to increase the working capital in the student loan fund. The bill increases the ceiling from \$18 million to \$20 million in 1996/97 and \$21 million in 1997/98. The growth in the number of students accessing the various types of students loans means there is insufficient working capital in the file to support the number of loans being requested. When the Standing Committee approved the 1996/97 main estimates for the...

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Just a moment please, Mr. Miltenberger. I would ask the Members, I know it has been a long session, but we do need to retain the decorum in the House and I would ask for a little order please, Mr. Erasmus. At this time I would ask Mr. Roland to continue with Mr. Miltenberger's report. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe he left off at the amount of \$21 million in 1997/98. The growth in the number of students accessing the various types of student loans means there is insufficient working capital in the fund to support the number of loans being requested. When the standing committee approved the 1996/97 main estimates for the department, it was noted the student loan revolving fund would be over-expended before the end of the fiscal year, projected \$18,430,000. The Minister did indicate, at that time, he would have to bring this bill to amend the loan ceiling. The standing committee has no concerns with the bill at this time.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Would the Minister like to bring witnesses?

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Madam Chair, I have staff available if necessary. Perhaps we could proceed and I will bring them in if it becomes necessary.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that we move on to general comments? General comments. There are no general comments. We will move on to clause by clause. Bill 12, an Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act on page 1, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed. Thank you. Bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 12 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed. Thank you. Bill 12 is now ready for third reading. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Madam Chair, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Your motion is in order and not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried. I will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill Nos. 8, 7, 2, 9, and 12 and Committee Reports 2, 3, 4, and 6 and

would like to report progress with seven motions being adopted. Committee Reports 2, 3, 4, and 6 are concluded and Bill Nos. 8, 2, 9, and 12 are ready for third reading and Bill 7 is ready for third reading as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Steen. Point of privilege.

Point of Privilege

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise a point of privilege under rule 20(1).

Mr. Speaker, earlier this morning on CBC news radio, a news item was reported regarding my comments on yesterday's date, regarding methods used by wildlife biologists when tranquillizing polar bears. The news item indicated I had said biologists are "darting bears carelessly and needlessly." Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed the unedited Hansard containing my comments and I would like to confirm I said nothing to this effect. In fact, I did not even imply such comments. I would like to state for the record that I do have concerns regarding methods used by scientific researchers when conducting polar bear research. However, I do not feel that such methods are careless or needless. I clearly see the need for such research.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, at the start of my statement yesterday, I stated I would be responding to a request from the Honourable Minister Kakfwi for information regarding problems people are experiencing in relation to the tagging of polar bears.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 21, third reading of bills. Ms. Thompson.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 7.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Aivilik is seeking consent to deal with Bill 7. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Ms. Thompson, you have consent.

Bill 7-13(4) Municipal Statutes Amending Act

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 7, Municipal Statutes Amending Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Accordingly, Bill 7 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, meeting of the Committee on Ratification immediately after adjournment. There is a meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations at 6:00 p.m. this evening, at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning there will be a meeting of the Ordinary Members' Caucus.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 5th, 1997:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions

9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills.
 - Bill 11, Loan Authorization Act, 1997/98
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 1996/97
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 2, Justice Administration Statutes, Amending Act
 - Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997/98
 - Bill 9, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1996/97
 - Bill 12, Student Financial Assistance Act
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 5, at 10:30 a.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT