



**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. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Honourable Don Morin, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Ningark, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Honourable Manikot Thompson, Honourable John Todd.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Good morning, Members. Today has been designated Aboriginal Languages Day in the Assembly. As you are aware, Michael Kusugak, the Northwest Territories Literacy Council president challenged myself and the Assembly to set one day aside on which Members would speak their aboriginal language in the Assembly. I have waived the requirement for advance notice under our Language Services Policy and urge all Members who speak an aboriginal language to consider using it today when they are addressing the House. (Translation ends)

It is very important that aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories, our grandparents, moms and dads, our siblings and our people, see that their languages are alive and are being used on a regular basis. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we play a major role for the people in a number of areas including the promotion of aboriginal languages. We here in the Legislative Assembly provide Inuktitut translation on a daily basis and rotate the provision of Dene and French languages services on a weekly basis. We have to remember that language is an important aspect of our culture and today, when many of our languages are struggling to survive, it is critical that we, as leaders, do our part to help preserve them. Being aboriginal role models must start with aboriginal leaders. Do not just talk the talk, but walk the walk.

(Translation) I would also like to thank the president and members of the NWT Literacy Council and the Languages Commissioner, Judi Tutcho of Deline, for their efforts in promoting the use of aboriginal languages and helping to arrange activities to celebrate Aboriginal Languages Month. I urge all communities in the Northwest Territories to join in the celebrations promoting aboriginal languages, it is so important in this day and age. Also, I would like to urge all Members to use their language. If we do so, we will continue to be strong. This is what I would like to say about aboriginal languages for today. Thank you very much. (Translation ends)

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 70-13(4): Aboriginal Languages Month and Francophone Week

HON. DON MORIN:

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the beginning of Aboriginal Languages Month and also to remind Members that March 16th to 22nd is Francophone Week.

All across the NWT, community organizations and individuals will be undertaking initiatives that promote the importance of languages.

In order to commemorate Aboriginal Languages Month and Francophone Week in a meaningful way, the Department of Executive has established a Community Language Leader Award Program. This award is designed to recognize individuals who promote the use of their language.

Later on this month, I will be happy to once again announce the winners of the Community Language Leader Award.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to advise the House that later today I will be tabling the 1995/96 GNWT Annual Report on Official Languages.

Thank you. Mahsi.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

Minister's Statement 71-13(4): Recognition and Gratitude for GNWT Employees

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this session of the 13th Assembly draws to a close, I would like to take a few moments to speak to the employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Over the past several weeks, there have been a number of issues that have come up in relation to staffing of government positions. In fact, this session has been a particularly heavy one with all of the implications and questions surrounding the government's hiring practices and a budget which represents the second year of a two-year deficit reduction plan. It is understandable that what has been discussed over the past eight weeks has brought some stress to some people and, perhaps at times, you felt as if you are no more than just a number on a piece of paper.

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Mr. Speaker, I would like to reassure all employees of this government that the decisions we make in the Legislative Assembly are not made lightly nor without thorough consideration on how it affects government employees. As we noted at the beginning of the budget process, the past 12 months have been a time of unprecedented change in the way that government programs and services are delivered. But with the passing of the 1997-98 budget, our restructuring is largely complete. We can now look forward to greater stability within this government.

-- Applause

HON. DON MORIN:

Mr. Speaker, stability does not mean we will stand still as an organization, but it does mean we can better manage our future and how we handle changes to the public service. On behalf of all of the Members of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to offer a sincere thank you to all government employees for your patience and understanding as we have publicly debated initiatives and actions that may affect you directly and personally. It is debatable which is harder, to set the vision or to fulfil it. But one thing is for sure, we need to work together to make it all happen.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize all of the Members in this House for realizing we must not forget the effect our decisions have on individuals. It is easy to lose sight of the people themselves when we limit our discussions to numbers, statistics, cultural backgrounds or the places we come from, but I believe that every Member of this House truly cares about the people who make up our public service.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to publicly recognize all of the employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories. The efforts you put in every day of the year make a difference. You are the backbone of this government. While your good work rarely makes the headlines of the newspapers, there is one thing you can be certain of, you are valued and appreciated. Thank you and mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 72-13(4): NWT Literacy Council Challenge

HON. CHARLES DENT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my fellow colleagues. (Translation ends) Language is the cornerstone of culture and heritage. As part of Aboriginal Languages Month, the NWT Literacy Council has issued a special challenge to the Members of this Assembly. The Council has asked us to set aside one day during which we speak in an aboriginal language whenever we address this Assembly. I am pleased to join you in announcing that today is Aboriginal Languages Day. Mr. Speaker, while I do not speak an aboriginal language, I will try to work some words in aboriginal languages into my statement today, so I hope Members and the interpreters will bear with me. Mr. Speaker, each of the NWT's aboriginal groups best expresses its unique world view and approach to life through its own language. If NWT children are to truly understand their culture, it is essential that they learn to communicate in their aboriginal language. Mr. Speaker, while they receive instruction in language and culture at school, it is important that this is reinforced in the home. (Translation) I encourage all parents who speak an aboriginal language to speak it to their children. (Translation ends)

-- Applause

Mr. Speaker, the NWT Literacy Council is encouraging communities across the NWT to celebrate aboriginal languages by organizing community and school events and speaking and reading in their aboriginal language whenever possible. Adults can also learn more about their culture by learning more about their language. As people work to develop their skill in speaking aboriginal languages, I urge them to consult their community's elders. (Translation unavailable) Our elders are our most important resource.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Language Bureau for their work in supporting aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories over the past 25 years. In addition to interpreting and translating, they develop new terminology to ensure that translations are precise and keep up with the demands of a changing world. The interpreter/communicators carry out their work with dedication and professionalism. I would like to thank them for the important work they do and the role they play in helping us understand each other.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear! Hear!

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the NWT Literacy Council for the work it does in promoting the aboriginal languages of the Northwest Territories. I encourage all Members of this Assembly to use an aboriginal language when they speak today. Let us meet the Council's challenge. Qujannamiik, mahsi, merci, quanaq.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 73-13(4): International Women's Day

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, March 8 is a special day. On this day we celebrate International Women's Day. A day when people, not just from the Northwest Territories but from around

the world, come together to celebrate the contribution of women to society. Mr. Speaker, women are playing an increasingly strong role in identifying issues and in shaping community and territorial direction. However, this is not a job for women alone. All of us, parents, family units, churches, community leaders and government must share in the work that has to be done. Mr. Speaker, International Women's Day is a day for women and men to recognize and celebrate the contributions women have made to society. Northern women, whether they are involved in traditional pursuits or the wage economy, are helping to make a difference in today's world

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and they will continue to do so, every day of the year. While there are still problems and systemic barriers that need to be overcome, Mr. Speaker, International Women's Day will celebrate the fact that every woman makes a difference. This special day will allow women and men around the world the opportunity to reflect on women's progress, celebrate this effort and acknowledge the work that is yet to be done. (Translation ends)

Mr. Speaker, there will be a telephone phone-in show for youth that is intended to stimulate thought and discussion about teen life. "Live and Well" will be on self-esteem for young women in the north. I encourage people to tune in live or tape this TV show on Wednesday, that is tonight, March 5, as part of International Women's Week celebrations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 74-13(4): Regulatory Reform Initiative

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The improvement of economic conditions is one of the core priorities of this government. A key component of that goal includes establishing an appropriate regulatory environment which protects northerners while minimizing government "red tape" and eliminating unnecessary barriers to economic growth.

Today, along with my honourable colleague, the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, I am pleased to announce a new initiative that will improve the way this government carries out its regulatory responsibilities. A small, specialized Regulatory Reform Secretariat will be established to consult with stakeholder organizations, business people, local governments and concerned individuals to find ways in which our regulatory programs and services can be delivered better. The secretariat will use the feedback it receives during these consultations to find new efficiencies in program delivery and to eliminate outdated or unnecessary regulatory processes which are creating impediments to the growth of northern industry and business. The initiative will be a joint responsibility of the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, who will take the lead in responding to matters raised in the House regarding the work of the Regulatory Reform Secretariat.

Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize that any reform of regulatory programs and services will be structured in such a manner as to ensure that the health, safety, workplace fairness and environmental quality of northerners are not adversely affected. At the same time, however, it has become increasingly clear that many of our current regulatory regimes have evolved in isolation from each other, sometimes to the point where they are unduly complicated and cumbersome. Often, there has been little or no adequate northern input on the adoption of codes and standards. Many stakeholders believe that too much of our regulatory policy and legislation is outdated, excessive and ineffective.

Over the course of the Regulatory Reform Initiative, we will identify measures for making sure that regulatory programs are consistent with the government's fiscal situation, with the current state of business and industry across the north, and with the emerging needs brought about by technological change or workplace trends. We will be examining alternative mechanisms for the delivery of inspections, licensing and other services and we will be finalizing the work initiated by the previous government on the reform of liquor control legislation and practices.

Of course, input and involvement of honourable Members will be vital to the success of this endeavour and we will work closely with the standing committees and MLAs throughout each stage of the Regulatory Reform Initiative.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Steen.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On The Beliefs of the Residents of the NWT

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker. Today my statement will be centred around the obviously strong beliefs of the residents of this territory, be they of a personal, cultural or spiritual nature. Mr. Speaker, I am convinced these beliefs are deeply embedded in the aboriginal people as well as non-aboriginals. For instance, I am sure that some Inuit and Inuvialuit people still believe in the powers of the Anako or medicine man or woman. I am also of the opinion each and every person in this territory is entitled to their own particular beliefs and no one should be forced to accept the beliefs of another. Personally speaking, I believe these beliefs are there to guide us through life on a daily basis. What happens when a person attempts to ignore these fundamental principles? I hope the final story, Mr. Speaker, will speak for itself.

Mr. Speaker, during the time the great cattle drives were taking place in the late 1800s across the State of Texas, three cowhands happened to be taking part in the cattle round-up. One evening, as they sat around the fire, two of these fellows got into a heated discussion on, of all things, the configuration of the earth and as to whether the earth was flat or round. The first cowhand said he had strong personal beliefs that the earth was flat and if a person walked far enough in a straight line, he would eventually fall off the edge of the earth. The second cowhand replied, "Don't act like a darned fool, there is no way this could be true as I heard tell of a fellow named Columbus who sailed a ship completely around the earth, thereby proving the earth was indeed round and furthermore,

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since he was passing this information on toll-free, it should be accepted for what it is worth."

Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to complete my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Nunakput is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? Mr. Steen, you have unanimous consent.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Qujannamiik, my honourable colleagues. The first cowhand replied, "See here, as far as I am concerned, you have no call to go after me in such a high-handed manner, telling me what I should believe or should not believe. I will believe what I feel like." Since these two cowhands could not reach an agreement, they turned to the third cowhand, who was sitting there listening to this argument and they asked him his opinion as to who was right and who was wrong. The third cowhand replied, "You are both wrong. The earth is square." The second cowhand asked him, "How in tarnation did you ever come to that conclusion?" The third cowhand replied, "I can prove it" and, with that, he pulled out a battered copy of the good book from his coat pocket and quoted from the scriptures, "'For they shall come from the four corners of the earth..." and who are we to argue with the scriptures?"

-- Laughter

As a result, the argument got even more heated and, since these were strong-minded people willing to go to any length to protect their beliefs, they could not settle this argument peacefully. Therefore, they turned to the traditional method of the times and had themselves an old-fashioned shootout. After the smoke and dust had settled, there appeared to be only one point proven as a result of all this commotion. That point was that some people will go to any extremes to defend or force their beliefs on others, whether they are of a personal, cultural or spiritual nature.

Mr. Speaker, a person might ask how these events relate to this day and age. Also, Mr. Speaker, we do not know who among these strong-minded men won the shootout. However, one might arrive at the conclusion by the simple method of elimination, based on a belief that still exists today. We know that nowadays, no one believes any more the earth is flat, therefore the first cowhand could not have survived the shootout. Did the cowhand who was convinced the earth was round win the shootout? This would be a pretty sure bet as modern-day scientific technology has confirmed beyond a doubt that the earth is indeed round. That leaves the beliefs of the cowhand who

believed the earth was square. Did he survive the shootout? It is hard to say because, even though the scientific community has proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the earth is as round as a ball, to this day and age it is still written in the scriptures and I quote, "For they shall come from the four corners of the earth." Mr. Speaker, someone may again ask, who are we to argue with the scriptures? With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer you and the rest of my honourable colleagues, a happy and toil-free Easter.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On the Appreciation of the Inuktitut Language

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker. Today, being Aboriginal Languages Day, I wish to speak a little bit about how I appreciate my own language. It is good to have such a day of recognition of the first people's language in the House. I have had the fortune of being elected as a Member of this House and I have had the fortune of participating fully as a Member of this House, using my own language as the only unilingual Member here. I have to extend my gratitude to the interpreters without whom I may not have been able to do the work that is required of me. I wish to recognize the tremendous pressure and hard work the interpreters here and elsewhere have had to work under to ensure that I can do my job as best I can. Also, today being Aboriginal Languages Day, I would really like to thank the interpreters because I appreciate the work they do. Mr. Speaker, even though some of us do not speak the English language, in the Inuktitut language we have some words that are different. For example, there are different words in Inuktitut for snow. When you say snow in English, it is the only word you have. In Inuktitut you could describe snow in different ways. There is a soft snow and there is another type of snow pukajaaq which means that the snow is soft on the bottom. Mr. Speaker, I would like consent to complete my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? There

are no nays, Mr. Evaloarjuk. You have unanimous consent.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you. Also there is *tisillukkaa* which means the snow is hard and also another word is *qanniuq* which means that when there is a snowfall, the soft snow on top of the hard snow is called that. When you are walking on the snow and you find the ground is soft, you call that *maujaq*. There is also another word called *ujjajuq* and that would be when there is a storm and the ground becomes hard. Also there is *sittujaaq* another word in Inuktitut describing snow and it is when there is a blizzard or when there is a snow drift. Those are the different types of snows that I could describe in Inuktitut and I am glad that I was able to teach the Members a few things in Inuktitut. Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Stimulated Economy From Negotiated Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Speaker, my statement today is regards to an issue that has come up several times in this House, it relates to negotiated contracts. In the region I represent, negotiated contracts have been in place for several years. The aboriginal organizations, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, in regards to the down turn of the oil and gas industry in the Mackenzie Delta, there has become a

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real need to find other initiatives to generate employment and have people generate work to keep people off social programs. In regards to negotiated contracts in my region which has stimulated that economy to enhance the region as it is today. Yes, we have problems in relation to social problems. We do have problems in trying to promote the economics of the regions. Yet, this government has steadfastly supported the initiatives of these organizations. Also, the Chamber of Commerce of Inuvik has supported negotiated contracts with this government. Mr. Speaker, in relation to aboriginal organizations like the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvialuit Regional

Corporation, they put a high priority on human resource development. One of the main objectives is to provide employment, training, and business opportunities to the people they represent. The Gwich'in Tribal Council, along with the Aurora College, has sponsored education programs in which there are Gwich'in students presently enrolled in apprentice programs for carpentry, electricians, plumbers, trades, and the Gwich'in Tetlit'zheh Trucking Ltd. has provided two driving training programs in the last two years. They are looking at implementing another one this year to allow individuals to receive their class one driver's licence to operate heavy equipment. Since 1993, the Gwich'in, through Tetlit'zheh Construction has... Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do I have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Krutko, you have unanimous consent.

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Speaker, since 1993, Tetlit'zheh Construction Ltd. has completed some 35 specific projects and generated \$35.4 million in revenues. In 1995, Tetlit'zheh Construction generated \$9 million in revenues and over \$6 million went to materials, supplies, and subcontracts. \$1.5 million of that went to the labour. In 1996, Tetlit'zheh Construction generated over \$11 million in revenues, of that, \$8 million went to materials, supplies, and subcontracts and over \$2 million went to labour. The total revenues for those two years were almost \$20 million, \$14 million went to materials, suppliers, and subcontracts, and \$3.5 million went to labour. Mr. Speaker, in relation to these dollars being left in the Inuvik and Mackenzie Delta region, in the Inuvik region alone, there were 41 subcontractors, which left \$12,500,000 in the Inuvik economy. Also, there were two suppliers and subcontractors in Yellowknife, \$1,600,000 was left in the Yellowknife economy. In Fort McPherson, there were 7 suppliers and subcontractors and \$1,700,000 was left in Fort McPherson. Mr. Speaker, the point I am trying to make is that without negotiated contracts, a lot of these dollars would not remain in the communities. Especially in relation to revenues staying in communities and the regions in regards to negotiated contracts, which puts northern people to work and keeps the money in the north, especially in our region. With that, mahsi cho, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On The Importance of Language on Culture

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, today in honour of Aboriginal Languages Day, I am speaking in my native language. Most of my constituents, especially the elders, will be happy for this day. It is very important that we, as the different aboriginal groups across this country, make an attempt to keep their language alive. It is very important for our culture to keep our language. Mr. Speaker, today we find ourselves on the last day of this sitting. I thought it would be good to reflect on the last few weeks. As we all know, we started sitting on January 21st and since then we have had numerous heated discussions regarding the budget's deficit cutting measures, employee housing, reduction of speed on Highway 3 and numerous other topics. At times, it has been a struggle to maintain our focus. However, through everything we have been able to provide this government with direction and insight. Mr. Speaker, it is now time for us to go home, visit with our family and friends, get out on the land to recharge our batteries and to give thanks to our creator for the things we have. I know we all need this coming rest and I look forward to it. Mr. Speaker, this coming break will be good for all. There are still many items that we must deal with and one of the most important ones will be the community consultation with our western NWT constitution. This, I am sure, will prove to be most interesting. I hope that our community leaders will see this as a positive move and assist us to ensure we come up with the best possible constitution that will reflect the diverse cultural society we live in. Mr. Speaker, I hope everyone will have a safe journey home and a very restful break. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I have allowed the Member from North Slave to go on, but perhaps just to remind the Members to take a glance at your clocks when you are making your statements so that when your time is up, you seek unanimous consent to conclude. Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement On Family Law Bills

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with yesterday's session we came to the end of a very difficult budgetary road that we mapped out for ourselves 16 months ago. The amount of work that has been done by this Assembly and the government in this area has been unprecedented. While the process is not over, it is now time to turn our minds and attentions to other initiatives. One initiative I would like to briefly talk about today is going to affect every man, woman, and child in the Northwest Territories. That is the family law bills that are now before this House. We will be going across the Northwest Territories seeking input from the people. Mr. Speaker, there are acts that are going to affect children, families, parents, spouses, single parents, adopted children, there will be no one who is not unaffected by these particular pieces of legislation. It is going to be very important that the communities are aware of this information, they have a chance to look at it, provide input to ourselves, to their MLAs, and to the groups in their communities that are involved in these areas. Mr. Speaker, without a doubt this is the single biggest legislative amendment of this Assembly. It is not a political one. It is not talking about relationships with Ottawa

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and looking at constitutions. It is talking about every day life in the communities and how people and families live together. I strongly urge all the MLAs, when they go back to their communities and all the people listening, to seriously look at these particular pieces of legislation. They are very important. The legislation we now have is years and years out of date and often contradicted itself. Now is the chance to make a change that is going to affect everybody beneficially. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Aspirations and Abilities of NWT Youth

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues. Last year I was able to take part by using mainly Inuktitut and English. This time around, I have

been able to use my aboriginal language and I am proud of this. Today, I want to talk about our young people. Mr. Speaker, in the Northwest Territories, our young people are rising in anything they undertake to do. Our young people are also involved in larger conferences that take place in parts of Canada. They will be responsible for running our Nunavut government. Some of them will start in the year 1999 and I am very proud of the fact that young people are getting serious in taking part in running our government. I also want to state this with regards to the young people that their job will not always be very easy, but with hard work they will be able to proceed and achieve their goals. As the Legislative Assembly we have to support the young people's aspirations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Greetings To Inuvik

MR. ROLAND:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends) I have used this and I made a quick call to my Aapaga in Inuvik. I have a couple of messages, one in Inuinnaqtun and I hope I get this right. (Translation unavailable) means I am going home soon.

-- Applause

MR. ROLAND:

I would like to also send a greeting back and I will do this in Inuktitut and I hope that I do it justice. To my family (Translation) I would like to say hello to my family in Inuvik. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Acknowledgement of Efforts to Preserve the Inuktitut Language

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. (Translation unavailable) Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and acknowledge the dedicated work of the elders and educators of Arviat and Baker Lake for their tireless efforts in preserving

and promoting the Inuktitut language. Mahsi cho. (Translation unavailable)

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Different Dialects in the Communities

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to use my aboriginal language. First of all, I am very proud of our language. When you travel to the Baffin communities, you can appreciate the different dialects that are spoken in the Baffin communities. I am very proud of our language, even though they have different dialects. If I come from northern Quebec and I say that I am afraid in Inuktitut, then in my community it means that I am happy or vice versa. As well, when I was a member of the education authority, I have come across a lot of community members who have lost their language. This was a great loss to them. We had witnessed community members who would cry because they have lost their aboriginal languages. I am proud of our people today who can hold onto their aboriginal languages. As well, with regards to students in our communities, when they are working with the older people from our community, they are collecting historical information from the elders from the communities. This is great to be preserved as well and put into data for later use. This is also in Inuktitut. I would thank to thank the rest of the Members for putting up with me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Plan 2000

MR. OOTES:

(Translation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. (Translation ends) Today, I would like to speak on Plan 2000 which was recently announced by the Minister for the NWT Housing Corporation. The title of 2,000 homes by the year 2,000 is certainly very

catchy, Mr. Speaker. However, we do need to scrutinize this further and to seek further clarification on it. I would like to say a few words about the housing situation in the Territories. How many times have we heard that the NWT is in the midst of a housing crisis? It is very true. Plan 2,000 is a good bandwagon to jump on because of what it conjures up, our images of overcrowding, extended families living under one roof, matchbox houses, four children in one bed, wind howling through the cracks in the walls of substandard shacks. We associate housing crisis with aggravated social problems, lack of privacy, interrupted sleep for children who cannot stay awake in school. We all agree that basic shelter for our citizens is a laudable goal and a responsibility of this government, particularly those in most need. If those in crisis shortage of houses are the target of our housing initiatives as a government with limited resources, we do have to ask are we hitting the right target? The housing crisis shortage exists in level 2 and 3 communities, Mr. Speaker. They are designated as level 2 or 3 for a good

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reason. They have the highest unemployment, the least developed economies and private sector markets, but, Mr. Speaker, while they are the poorest communities, they are also least likely to have many income earners between \$50,000 and \$90,000 per year who can walk into a chartered bank and secure a residential mortgage even with a downpayment assistance. Plan 2000 is directed to those employed in the wage economy. The question, therefore, needs to be asked, is this a program accessible to many people in level 1 communities like Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Hay River? But this is not where the housing crisis exists. Level 1 communities presently have a record number of homes on the market for sale. A 50 year low in interest rates and other incentives provided for first home buyers by CMHC have caused an increase in residential construction. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. OOTES:

Qujannamiik (Translation unavailable) Safeguards have to be built in to ensure there is no unwarranted disruption in the private sector market in level 1 communities where there is no housing crisis. Also, the public needs more information and clarification on this particular issue. Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister to address this particular concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation unavailable) Mahsi cho.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement On Accomplishments of the House During Session

MR. PICCO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends) (Translation unavailable) has reached watershed stage with the completion of a projected balanced budget yesterday.

-- Applause

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Bravo! Bravo!

MR. PICCO:

With the projected surplus, hopefully the GNWT has turned the corner and we will be able to, as an Assembly, focus on the needs of the people instead of the needs of our creditors. New employment strategies to new housing initiatives and some of the regulatory reform work that will become the focus as we lead into division are important steps in that direction. I think that the people of the NWT are tired of hearing the doom and gloom of deficit reductions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear! Hear!

MR. PICCO:

I know I am.

-- Applause

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, on Friday many of us will be going home for the first time since the 15th of January. Although

the hospitality of Yellowknifers is second to none, it will be good to get back home. We will then have to reflect on some of the legislation, debates and, of course, the budget passed by the 13th Assembly. There have been some good debates over the past several weeks and, although I have not agreed to all of the budgetary measures, it is within the framework of our legislative system that allows me and every MLA the right to say that. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank my wife, friends and my wife's co-workers, who have been supportive of my family while I have been away. Sometimes being in the public eye is very difficult and stressful, but it can also be stressful for the people at home. As today is Aboriginal Languages Day, I would like to take this opportunity to say to my wife. (Translation unavailable) Mahsi cho, qujannamiik, merci, quanaq (Translation unavailable) Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement On The Importance of the Inuktitut Language

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think that the world is shaped like a heart. Mr. Speaker, as children we went to school in Chesterfield Inlet, perhaps, before the other Members from the communities that are represented here were born. When we were in Chesterfield Inlet, we were encouraged not to use our aboriginal language and our parents, when we went home, could not speak English. When we attended school in Chesterfield Inlet, we were taught the English language and then when we got home to our communities, we were encouraged to speak our language. I would like to thank today's government because they are responsible for teaching the aboriginal languages, in particular Inuktitut. As well, I want to thank all the teachers who are responsible for teaching the Inuktitut language.

Another topic with regards to what Mark Evaloarjuk was talking about as he was referring to different types of snow. I appreciate this as well because we have different meanings as well. Mr. Speaker, when we get into the Nunavut government, the Inuktitut language will be the working language and I am very proud of this. As well, with regards to our children,

they are being taught the Inuktitut language and they are also being provided assistance through the government for their education curriculum, which is provided in the Inuktitut language. Language is part of your heritage. It shows who you are. When we are at home, we do use our language, but when we are in different communities, we have different names for different items or different things, maybe even with the land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement On The Value of Education

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My Member's statement today is on the value of education. Mr.

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Speaker, there is a strong relationship between education and income and employment levels. Fourteen percent of Canadians 15 and over, have less than a grade nine education. At the same time in the NWT, 27 percent of our residents, 15 and over, have less than a grade nine education. That is two times higher than the Canadian average. Mr. Speaker, dropping out involves high costs to government. Canadian society loses billions of dollars over the lifetime of dropouts. For example, Canada will lose \$4 billion over the working lifetime of the nearly 140,000 youths who dropped out instead of graduating in the class of 1989. Costs include less earning before spending and lost tax revenue. Costs also include the personal cost to the dropouts. Studies have shown that dropouts experience more social problems. These social problems include poor personal health, lower social status, higher unemployment, dependents of social security payments and their children as well are less likely to stay in school. It is a never ending cycle.

Mr. Speaker, the NWT spends proportionately less on education than the Yukon and the provinces. It is no wonder that we have the lowest education rate in Canada, if we spend the least amount on education per capita. Mr. Speaker, this cannot be allowed to continue. We need to put more money into adult education. We cannot leave our education levels at a rate where people with grade nine or less are two times higher than the Canadian average. Thank you. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Importance of Aboriginal Languages

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is Aboriginal Languages Day so I will be speaking in my language. As my friend, John Ningark spoke, I also think of when I was a child, I went to Fort Providence from Fort Simpson to go to school. I went to school there for four years. During that time, I did not see my parents and we were taught only in English. We were prohibited to speak our language and so the majority of the native students spoke mostly English. When we went home, we spoke only our aboriginal language. That happened not only in his area, but all over the country. I am thankful that we can still speak our native languages today. When I left my community I was gone for a fair amount of time and when I arrived back in my community I spoke a little bit of my native language. When I became a chief, I spoke my language fairly well. As I learned more from my elders, I continued to speak better in my language. Today, the students seem to have a hard time speaking their native language. It seems like everything is mostly in English, like TV and so on. They do not seem to speak their native languages that much and the elders predominantly speak in their native language, so there is a communication gap. Today, we are starting to learn to write our languages. I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

(Translation) The Member for Nahendeh is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Antoine, you have unanimous consent to conclude your statement. Mr. Antoine. (Translation ends)

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nowadays in the communities the parents, if they still speak their native languages, it would be good if they continued to speak to their children in their native language. Today, the children want to speak their language. When they are taught in the schools it is not taught

that extensively. Today the students that are just starting school are learning the languages, but the students in the advanced grades are not being taught their languages. I still speak my native language and I am glad that I still do. I represent six communities that all speak their native languages. When I go to the communities, I only speak my aboriginal languages. I am thankful for that. When I come back here, I have a little bit of a difficulty speaking the English language. Today is Aboriginal Languages Day. That is as much as I would like to say. Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 376-13(4) Affirmative Action Policy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ootes asked what percentage of GNWT employees employed in labour and related jobs are aboriginal and what percentage of GNWT employees employed as social workers and wildlife officers are aboriginal.

Government-wide data for 1995 has just been completed and verified. Based on the 1995 data from the Government Human Resources Information System and from Stanton Regional Hospital and the health boards, 71.3 percent of the GNWT's labourer and trade work force are aboriginal. Wildlife officers and social workers are included as program delivery staff. Aboriginal people make up 52.4 percent of all GNWT program delivery staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 334-13(4): Western Employment Strategy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a reply to an oral question asked by Mr. Ootes on February 18th, 1997. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education, Culture, and Employment has carried out an analysis of the overall work force and GNWT staff in both the east and the

west. For Nunavut, this work has supported the development of Inuit employment plans and the Nunavut Unified Human Resources Development Strategy. For the west, this work has provided planning documents for use by departments, boards, and agencies. However, a comprehensive plan for the development of the western public service has not been prepared.

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The federal commitment of incremental funding for training in Nunavut is based, in part, on Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claim. This article commits the Government of the Northwest Territories to increase Inuit employment "to a representative level." As well, the Nunavut Political Accord signed by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Canada, and the Government of the Northwest Territories, reinforced the importance of a significant commitment to training and development in order to meet this goal. These commitments are unique and are not reflected in agreements related to the western Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, to further strengthen northern employment, this government has undertaken a number of broad initiatives including the development of an economic planning framework, a labour force development plan, and a northern employment strategy. We are also working on specific training initiatives, such as mining. The GNWT is supporting self-government negotiations in the west, as well as the development of a constitution for the western territory.

However, Mr. Speaker, there is no existing commitment made by the federal government in a land claim or through an accord concerning the west which would commit the federal government to provide additional funds for training in the western territory. However, in formula financing negotiations with the federal government, the Government of the Northwest Territories will strive to ensure that there is adequate funding to run both territories after division.

Mr. Speaker, copies of the planning documents prepared for the west will be forwarded to the Member for Yellowknife Centre for his information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Returns to oral questions. Ms. Thompson.

Return To Question 375-13(4): ERS Training and Equipment Upgrade

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Edward Picco on February 24, 1997.

I have reviewed the department's fire training plan in preparing my response to the Member's question on GNWT support for the emergency response services program at the Iqaluit airport. In 1995/96, MACA and the Department of Safety and Public Services initiated a three-year fire training plan to better address the training needs of community fire departments.

This training plan was aimed at addressing recommendations of the NWT Association of Municipalities and the NWT Fire Chiefs Association, which called for public education programs, basic fire fighter and specialized fire command officer training. The goal of this initiative was to develop a foundation for community-based fire instruction and public education programs. Community participants are provided Level 1 and 2 fire fighter training, which is followed up by community specific training on local equipment and facilities. Command officer training and train-the-trainer programs are also offered to selected candidates.

However, funding was not provided as a part of this initiative for a training program to support ERS at airports. The level of service to be provided must be rationalized with the actual risk and the ability to respond. This issue prompted Transport Canada to revise regulations which removed the necessity for providing dedicated full-time ERS at most Canadian airports. Statistics do not support the maintenance of full-time ERS at all airports.

It is not recommended that ERS response be maintained at any but the busiest airports. There are serious liability concerns if an airport attempted to maintain a full ERS response but was unable to prevent certain fatalities after a serious accident. It would not be necessary to utilize the Duluth training facility, referenced by the Member earlier in the House, unless the government was committed to maintaining a full ERS response capability. This would be a very expensive proposition.

Airport certification requirements do not require an ERS response but do require an adequate airport emergency plan to be in place. The risk management advice received by the government supports the

premise that this more cost effective approach will minimize the liability that may follow an airport incident.

MACA plans to collaborate with the Department of Transportation and the town of Iqaluit on the development of an airport emergency plan which will reflect new emergency response arrangements. Planning will need to commence to revise the airport emergency plan to establish formal links with the GNWT regional emergency committee and the town's emergency response system. It is envisaged that the airport emergency plan will operate in conjunction with the community's emergency plan and as a component of the GNWT regional plan.

The GNWT regional plan will be able to provide the medium for a co-ordinated multi-agency response to an airport incident in Iqaluit. This will not be an ERS response, but it is considered a reasonable and manageable plan to implement. The town of Iqaluit will not be asked to maintain the current level of ERS response once provision of this service is terminated by the Department of Transportation on March 31. The town is considering participation in a multi-agency response to an airport incident, which would include territorial and municipal agencies. The town will be invited to work with the Department of Transportation and MACA officials to establish such a response system. GNWT staff are prepared to initiate this process as soon as agreement from the town is received.

Issues related to appropriate equipment and training will also be addressed during planning meetings, which will need to occur in the immediate future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

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MR. NINGARK:

Qujannamiik. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the divisional board of education chairman, Ms. Pat Thomas. (Translation ends)

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to recognize Pat Thomas, president of the NWT Teachers' Association. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to stand today to recognize Ms. Pat Thomas, president of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association and she is my constituent.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the government, I would like to recognize an old friend and like they say about old friends, sometimes you have a tendency to disagree on certain issues, but friendships do survive that. I would like to recognize Pat Thomas, president of the NWT Teachers' Association, who is a very positive, always smiling. She is very good natured, friendly, honest, hard-working, and just an all around good person and also a very good liberal, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would also like to recognize Pat Thomas, who taught in Fort McPherson and a lot of the communities in the north and also has

been doing a great job to represent teachers, regardless of the difference between Mr. Todd and herself. Hopefully they can resolve the issue. Welcome to the House, Pat.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Welcome to the Assembly. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 454-13(4): Central Coordinator for Nunavut Infrastructure Committee

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance, also responsible for division. My question is a follow-up to discussions held recently in Cambridge Bay. It is my understanding that the GNWT, through MACA, will directly or indirectly be involved with the infrastructure arrangements for Nunavut. This will include such areas as site development, water and sewer, et cetera. Can the Minister advise this House whether or not there is a central co-ordinator in place to ensure that all parties are on the same wavelength and in sync? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 454-13(4): Central Coordinator for Nunavut Infrastructure Committee

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important to point out that we are managing this. Thirty-four million dollars of community infrastructure is required as my honourable colleague said, for rural development pads, et cetera, that will be associated with the decentralized hub of the NIC. While we do not write the cheques, we are assisting federal government in the overall co-ordination of the requirements in these communities and it is my understanding that my colleague, the honourable Maniok Thompson's deputy minister chairs a co-ordinating committee to do exactly that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 454-13(4): Central Coordinator for Nunavut Infrastructure Committee

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the proposed infrastructure and promised jobs for the smaller communities like Arviat and Baker Lake, it will be necessary to have the majority of the infrastructure in place prior to 1999. Mr. Speaker, in order for these proposed jobs to become a reality, there has been a commitment by the federal Minister to spend millions of dollars on various construction projects. Can the Minister confirm whether or not there is policy in place as to how these projects or contracts will be tender? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 454-13(4): Central Coordinator for Nunavut Infrastructure Committee

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important to indicate, as I have on a number of occasions, that the responsibility for the development of the infrastructure of office space, housing, et cetera, lies with the federal Department of Public Works through DIAND and our partners in division, NTI. We have a limited involvement in that. It is almost marginalized. We do not have, at this time, any indication as to how they are going to go about the construction phase of it. We understand it and are sympathetic that the ultimate ownership of the assets on the ground will be owned and operated by NTI. On the actual construction and the rules of engagement, as to how that construction is going to go about, whether it will be public tendered, whether it will be negotiated, whether all northern businesses will have access to it, whether some of our northern preference policies are included, we are not aware to what degree and how the NTI and the federal government are going to go about building this infrastructure. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 454-13(4): Central Coordinator for Nunavut Infrastructure Committee

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister can understand that there are a number of small contractors in the operative communities that are awaiting the word as to exactly how these contracts will be awarded. I would ask the Minister if he could contact the responsible parties and get a message back to the Members prior to the House reconvening again? Possibly he could write to us over the next two weeks and let us know? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 454-13(4): Central Coordinator for Nunavut Infrastructure Committee

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have seen some of the federal time lines and NTI time lines as they relate to infrastructure development. It is my understanding that there is a desire, understandably so, to get moving on this in 1997 and 1998. I would be only too happy to, through the Nunavut Secretariat, communicate with the federal government and ask them for clarity and clarification as to how this infrastructure is going to be built, by whom, and what the rules of engagement are and will communicate directly with all Members of the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 454-13(4): Central Coordinator for Nunavut Infrastructure Committee

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the Cambridge Bay meeting, Minister Irwin acknowledged that the infrastructure would be forthcoming and he was somewhat vague about the timing of it. Has Mr. Todd had any word from the federal department or the federal Minister as to the scheduling of the infrastructure? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 454-13(4): Central Coordinator for Nunavut Infrastructure Committee

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have an updated time line schedule of the infrastructure. With his concurrence, I will add that to the communicate that we will have with the federal government next week. We will try to get an update on the time lines and what the rules and regulations are going to be with respect to the construction itself. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. We are still on oral questions. Mr. Krutko is next and we will break until 1:30.

-- Break

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. We are in question period. Mr. Krutko.

Question 455-13(4): Benefits of Negotiated Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier in regards to my opening statement on the negotiated contracts. There have been a lot of questions about negotiated contracts. While there is a need to make sure there are rules for negotiated contracts, they do provide many benefits to northerners. In my region, I believe the communities have benefitted by negotiated contracts. Can the Premier indicate what the government sees as the benefits of negotiated contracts?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Premier, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 455-13(4): Benefits of Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Previously, the way of tendering in the Government of the Northwest Territories saw many outside and southern companies coming into your communities and leaving after the capital projects were done. I could use my community for an example. Prior to becoming an MLA, we had a capital project in our community of a

little over \$1 million for the building of a bridge. After everything shook out of the wash, less than one percent of those capital dollars were spent in my community. After that, we started negotiating contracts, not only in the communities that I represent, but many communities throughout the Northwest Territories. We saw, at that time, more dollars were left in the community. People had a tendency to train people in the community so they hired local people. They also learned how to run contracts, learned to administer contracts and we have seen more stay at the community level and at the regional level. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 455-13(4): Benefits of Negotiated Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Some Members of the House have suggested that certain groups do not need negotiated contracts anymore with the success of northern development corporations, such as the Gwich'in Development Corporation which has been in place for a number of years, in regards to the contracts they have received. I would like to ask the government, at what point in time does this government see no need for negotiated contracts?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 455-13(4): Benefits of Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In some communities, where we have had negotiated contracts, there may not be a need for it to continue but there is also the principle of community empowerment that we are looking at. That is another way of talking about negotiated contracts. The

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question has to be asked, whether or not groups in the communities can benefit from the dollars spent at the community level to supply services to their own people. Whether that is through community

empowerment or negotiated contracts, it is yet to be known. I would like to assure the Member that we do not see ourselves changing direction in the very near future. We will continue to make sure that communities benefit from the dollars that are being spent in them. Now that we have the whole issue of Article 24, we have made a commitment already to this Legislative Assembly to work on a policy. A negotiated contract policy is being worked on for all departments of the Government of the Northwest Territories. So, we will do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 455-13(4): Benefits of Negotiated Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the employment opportunities in all these small communities which a lot of time are close to nil or pretty close to not having any opportunities, especially the situation we are in with this government in reducing dependency on social programs, has the government looked in regards to the statistics and the human resource development, also the training and economic spin-off to communities by these negotiated contracts, have they done a study on that to do the evaluation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 455-13(4): Benefits of Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all negotiated contracts for the government, it is part of the negotiation that development corporations and community organizations that are carrying out the contract at the community level, have to supply all that information to the government, all the jobs it creates, all the local people they hire, the regional people and where every cent of that contract is spent. That is part of the information the government compiles and, as Members have seen when they first came here, the best picture that we have seen on the economic front, when we were presented with the economic position of this government and what we did in the previous

Assembly to create work in the north, was from our negotiated contracts and our manufacturing in the north. That was the only place we saw the scale go up, where we created more employment in the north, especially at the community level. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 455-13(4): Benefits of Negotiated Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the overall statistics relating to the employment that is created in the north

and in the communities and also the economic spin-offs, especially for suppliers and sub-contractors, can the Premier make that information available to myself and my colleagues in the House? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 455-13(4): Benefits of Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would request that information from the Ministers who are in charge of contracts, Transportation, Public Works and Services, Housing Corporation, for example, to try and compile that information. I will make it available to the Member as soon as I get it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Question 456-13(4): Unpaid Hall Beach Cemetery Workers

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of MACA and requires her assistance. Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, four people were hired during the summer of 1968 to remove 30 graves from the old Hall Beach Cemetery and then have them moved to the current site. I have been told, Mr. Speaker, that these four people did not get paid for the work that they did. I would like to ask

the Minister of MACA if she would look into this situation and advise me of her findings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Thompson.

Return To Question 456-13(4): Unpaid Hall Beach Cemetery Workers

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to let the honourable Member know that I understood him clearly and I will be speaking to the superintendent of MACA, Mike Ferris. He will be working with the community concerning the graves that were relocated in Hall Beach. I will make sure I will look into why these four people did not get paid for the work that they did. Mike Ferris will be working on this as soon as possible. I will let the honourable Member know as soon as I learn what is happening here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 457-13(4): Help With Filing Income Tax

MR. PICCO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Finance concerning income tax (Translation ends) about help for unilingual and other constituents with income tax problems. I note that Revenue Canada has placed ads now in Yellowknife newspapers about helping residents here with their income tax. My question to the Minister of Finance is, has he contacted Revenue Canada about my earlier concerns and/or assistance in Nunavut and other parts of the Northwest Territories about help with income tax filings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance. Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 457-13(4): Help With Filing Income Tax

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe my staff have been communicating with Revenue Canada to see if there is a possibility to expand these workshops across the Territories as it relates to income tax. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 457-13(4): Help With Filing Income Tax

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the best of times, income tax forms can be difficult to understand. We have a situation where some people have not filed for two, three, four years, through no fault of their own. My supplementary question is, will the Minister be directing his staff at the regional level or maybe one of the other departments like EC&C, to help deliver workshops in adult education centres or through FMBS offices in the regions, to help people with income tax?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 457-13(4): Help With Filing Income Tax

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important to be clear with my honourable colleague that it is not the role and responsibility of the GNWT employees to do people's personal income tax. However, I do recognize there are, at this time of the year, some difficulties associated with it and would be prepared to sit down with my colleague, Mr. Dent, to see if there was a possibility to do maybe some workshops at adult education centres. I cannot commit today whether in fact we can get that done or not because the clock is ticking, as Mr. Picco likes to say, and income taxes have to be done in the next short while. I will undertake to discuss it with my colleague who is responsible for adult education to see if there is a possibility there. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 457-13(4): Help With Filing Income Tax

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the concern here is that we have a lot of unilingual people who, when they get these forms, do not understand them and try to find someone to help them with these forms. To go to a professional tax filer, like we have in Iqaluit, costs \$150 to \$200. That is if you have all the information for them. I wonder if there is any assistance available from this government. I think it is a territorial concern because they are residents of our territory and they are residents of the Northwest Territories. They are taxpayers in the Northwest Territories and if they do not file their taxes, we do not get that revenue stream. I think there is some implication here for the Northwest Territories government. So, I would ask again, is there some type of financial assistance to help people to find these professional tax filers to help them with income tax, especially for unilingual people? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 457-13(4): Help With Filing Income Tax

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no money in the budget if that is what my honourable colleague is saying. I understand the problem, we have all got it. I used to volunteer my time, as I know my honourable colleague did when he was with Community Futures in Iqaluit and was out there doing his thing for his constituents. I will commit to discussing the matter with Mr. Dent to see if there is a possibility to run workshops but it is not the role and responsibility of this government to do individual tax returns and we are not in a position to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 457-13(4): Help With Filing Income Tax

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had had several phone calls and letters on this issue and I realize the clock is ticking, that is why I brought up the question a couple of weeks ago. I would follow up and I appreciate Minister Todd and Minister Dent having that commitment to sit down and discuss this. I wonder when we could have input then from the Minister and let me know so that I can inform constituents as March 31 is quickly approaching.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 457-13(4): Help With Filing Income Tax

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, tick, tick, tick as they say in the business of politics. I mean it is March whatever, 6, the last day. We are in a situation where the income tax returns are ticking. I cannot commit today whether in fact we can, across the whole territorial framework, have some kind of system in place that would assist people in income tax. What I will commit to do is to talk to Mr. Dent and see if there is a possibility that somebody could run a workshop of some sort in Iqaluit if that is where he is getting this flood of phone calls from, as my colleague keeps telling us. Of course, if you would like to provide me now with a list of the names and the telephone numbers of the people, we would be only too happy to respond on an individual basis. However, we will take a look at it and if there is a possibility to run some kind of a workshop on filling in of the income tax form, we would be only too happy to do it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Todd, Todd, Todd.

-- Applause

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MR. SPEAKER:

Can I ask the Members to limit... You have your preambles. Do not talk for lengthy periods of time when you are doing your supplementaries.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

You just follow up on your questions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Bravo! Bravo!

MR. SPEAKER:

The clock is ticking away your question period. Mr. Roland.

Question 458-13(4): Concern with Hunters' and Trappers' Budget

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be brief and to the point. Mr. Speaker, in the community of Inuvik, there is concern being raised over some of the numbers that have gone through on the budget especially in the area of hunters and trappers committees in the Renewable Resource Councils. With the budget as it is, if there is no change, it will devastate what the community people will be able to do with the hunters and trappers in the area. We heard a motion was passed in committee of the whole to restore it to historic levels. I have since questioned the Minister of RWED if he would take that motion seriously. My question would be... Thank you, Mr. Picco, I believe on my first question I am allowed preamble.

-- Applause

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. With the recommendations made in committee of the whole regarding the budget, when will we know so that we can let those organizations in our communities be aware of exactly what is going to come forward? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Premier.

Return To Question 458-13(4): Concern with Hunters' and Trappers' Budget

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to reassure the Member, and thank Mr. Roland for the excellent preamble and question, that we as a government take all your motions seriously. We will be considering that motion as well as other motions that were made in committee of the whole and in this House. What we

do is compile those motions through Mr. Todd and it would have to come back through Mr. Todd to FMB and Cabinet. Once we take a look at them, we go back to Government Ops with how we would like to solve those problems. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 458-13(4): Concern with Hunters' and Trappers' Budget

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process to go back to committee and so on, are we looking at a timeline that would happen? After March 31, the budget reductions that are proposed in this budget would start to be implemented. Is that what I am hearing or will we be able to sustain hunters and trappers committees until something has come back for sure?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 458-13(4): Concern with Hunters' and Trappers' Budget

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we will be doing is co-ordinating the response through FMBS and we should have that done by the beginning of April, early April, so that we will take a look at those motions. We will see where we can either find money or maybe we cannot find money or if we can agree with the recommendations or whatever, then at the beginning of April we will get back to the Members. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 458-13(4): Concern with Hunters' and Trappers' Budget

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the concern is quite high there especially when we are so close to the end of this fiscal year and those HTCs depend wholly on the government contributions to help them. Many of

the organizations will be preparing for spring hunts and the operation of summer programs. Will there be messages sent out in time for these organizations to deal with the people they serve? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 458-13(4): Concern with Hunters' and Trappers' Budget

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are confident that we could do this work fairly quickly and get back to the organizations, or especially to the Members and the committees in a fairly timely fashion. We will get it done as soon as possible. I am not saying here today whether it is going to be a positive response or exactly what everybody wants, but I am saying that I am making a commitment that we will respond. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 459-13(4): Timeframe for Negotiated Contracts

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Premier in regard to negotiated contracts. Mr. Speaker, it is not clear at this point in time to the communities, as well as the business arms of the corporation in the communities, as to when would be an appropriate time to approach government to negotiate contracts. Now communities are well aware and the corporations are well aware that this should be done before the contracts are tendered. The unfortunate part is, we have no way, even as Members, to know when these contracts will be tendered. My question to the Premier, is there some way that a timeframe could be established whereby communities would be advised

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of the opportunity to negotiate contracts before they are tendered? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 459-13(4): Timeframe for Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Previously, I had quite a bit of experience working with contracts, being Minister of DPW and Housing Corporation. By all means, we do not want to put a contract out to tender and pull it back. That is not the way to do business. That is not good government. Normally through negotiated contracts, the communities already know from the previous year that this work is going to be done in the community. It usually takes quite a few months and sometimes up to six months to negotiate and work up to that. They should know that already. But now that our budget is public and it has just about been passed, I would encourage Members to work with their communities to identify capital projects in that budget they would like to see negotiated and the sooner the better. I do not want to go to tender on things and have to take them back from tender. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 459-13(4): Timeframe for Negotiated Contracts

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier indicated a six month lead to the budget being passed. Well, that is pretty hard for MLAs to do, because we have no way of assuring that the budget is going to be passed and the figures in the budget are going to be accepted. Now, we are aware even as early as January, we see contracts tendered even though we are still discussing the project and the budget. Therefore, if the Premier is suggesting that sometime in August maybe we would be approaching the government to negotiate contracts for the next March or April 1.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 459-13(4): Timeframe for Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through capital plan and process, when we develop the capital plan for the government or the proposed capital plan, we work closely with the communities and the communities know basically what they are getting next year. For example in Lutselk'e, we knew they were going to get a firehall next year because it was there. So, the community expresses interest to either go negotiated contract, public tender or project management. I am saying that in some cases it may take as long as six months to negotiate a contract. Yes, in some cases it does put the project off one full year so that they only get a foundation done in the first year, but that is the community's choice. If the community the Member represents is interested in negotiating contracts in this capital budget, they should let the Minister know as soon as possible. Thank you. They do have experience in negotiating contracts so it should happen in a fairly timely manner. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 459-13(4): Timeframe for Negotiated Contracts

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are two points here. One, the Premier said he would prefer a six month lead to negotiated contracts. However, for some reason or other it is only a three month lead to put forward a bid on a tender. I do not understand what takes three months to negotiate. The other point is, if the communities are in fact able to count on what is in those capital plans in a normal year, where there are no fiscal restraints, that would be good and possibly be able to do this. But we are operating in a fiscal situation where \$100 million is cut out of the plan in a year. So, how can the communities be assured that these capital works are going to happen in the next year unless they see it in the budget? Thank you, Mr Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 459-13(4): Timeframe for Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to set the record straight, I did not say that I would prefer to have six

months to negotiate. What I said was that in some cases it takes up to six months to negotiate, in some cases it takes a month. If the communities are interested in negotiating contracts, they should be in touch with the department that has those contracts and they should do that as soon as possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 460-13(4): Building the School for Clyde River

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I asked an oral question on a contract relating to a contract in Clyde River for the building of the school. I would like to ask the Minister of DPW, Goo Arlooktoo, if he has any updated information on this contract situation? Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 460-13(4): Building the School for Clyde River

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

(Translation) As I said yesterday, we do not have any updated information whether there are any businesses that are interested in the contract, but I was informed this morning that there is an interested business person from Cambridge Bay that was interested in the contract, but he will not go ahead with this contract. (Translation ends) I did indicate yesterday that, up to yesterday, there had been no official word about whether the negotiated contract had been contested. This morning, I was informed that it had been officially contested. Therefore, the

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contract to build the learning centre in Clyde River will now go through the competitive process.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 460-13(4): Building the School for Clyde River

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will the Minister be able to inform me or this business whether they will be awarded the contract? Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 460-13(4): Building the School for Clyde River

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

(Translation) The people in Clyde River will be informed if they have not been already regarding the learning centre, the contract will not be awarded, but they will have to try to get the contract. We had to do this. We had to follow the NTI's recommendation when there are a number of contractors that are interested. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 461-13(4): Conditions for Negotiated Contracts

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier as well. It is in regards to negotiated contracts. This was an issue in the riding that I represent and there was a concern in the community that one group in the community could go and negotiate a contract for the takeover of services in the community without necessarily having the involvement of all of the community. The Premier came down to Fort Smith and addressed the issues and he said there were three fundamental issues, which I would like him to confirm, that are required for a negotiated contract. Those conditions are: there has to be community support, it has to be within budget, it has to be northern. Could I ask the Premier whether those three fundamental conditions still apply? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 461-13(4): Conditions for Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is 100 percent correct. What we call political peace in the community, you have to have community support to negotiate a contract. We have a budget. If it is \$100,000, you have to negotiate that contract and bring it in under \$100,000. It also has to have 100 percent northern involvement. They are not allowed to have any southern involvement at all on a negotiated contract. In the Nunavut claim area, there is one other clause, that is, you have to advertise for 21 days because of Article 24 and if any other Inuit companies say they are interested, then you cannot negotiate. Then you have to go to public tender. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 461-13(4): Conditions for Negotiated Contracts

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In larger communities where there is a private sector, negotiated contracts may not always be the most appropriate way of doing business for that particular circumstance or that particular community. When you talk about community support, is there a role in there for the MLA? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 461-13(4): Conditions for Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a sheet on there, is this contract supported by the local MLA or not? That is the role of the MLA. We need to have the MLA's support. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 461-13(4): Conditions for Negotiated Contracts

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it possible for a northern business from another region to come in to another region and try to negotiate a contract?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 461-13(4): Conditions for Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is quite possible. If a community needs expertise, for example, Yellowknife has many businesses that have a lot of expertise, old-time northerners that are in business, and they may go to work in Lutselk'e or McPherson or wherever to sell their expertise to those communities. As long as they are a northern company, they can benefit from negotiated contracts. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 461-13(4): Conditions for Negotiated Contracts

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If a northern business comes into the region to do that, they are still obligated to get the community's support?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 461-13(4): Conditions for Negotiated Contracts

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HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is 100 percent right. I cannot recall, in the past four years, our government negotiating with a company from Yellowknife to carry out a negotiated contract in any other community, or vice versa. It is normally driven

by the community. Negotiated contracts have to be driven by the community, not from somebody outside trying to find his way in through a tender process. It has to be driven and supported by the community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 462-13(4): Socio-Economic Impact and Benefits Agreement

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. Some residents and business individuals have expressed some concern and questions regarding the socio-economic impact and benefits agreement that was recently signed with the BHP and this particular government. The concern that the citizens and business people have is, there is some impression that the construction phase of the project is not applicable under this agreement. It is my understanding that both the construction phase and the operational phase is applicable. However, my constituents point out that there is a great deal of hiring taking place in Edmonton and that is the predominant area of hiring taking place. That is of concern to people in the north and some of my business constituents. Apparently there is going to be direct transportation from Edmonton to the mine site on a twice-weekly basis, with non-stop here in Yellowknife. This is the official point of hire for the project. The concern is one of hiring and the transportation of goods predominantly benefiting Edmonton and the Alberta economy. Does the socio-economic impact and benefits agreements cover the construction phase of the project? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Premier.

Return To Question 462-13(4): Socio-Economic Impact and Benefits Agreement

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 462-13(4): Socio-Economic Impact and Benefits Agreement

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are many concerns out there of the fashion in which people are being used on the mine site. How does the GNWT monitor the agreement to ensure there is a commitment that the construction companies also meet the needs of the socio-economic benefit and impacts agreement? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 462-13(4): Socio-Economic Impact and Benefits Agreement

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for that excellent question. It is a concern to our government. That is the whole reason we entered into this agreement, a legal, binding agreement with BHP mines. We wanted to ensure that when this development happens in the Northwest Territories, it does benefit Northwest Territories residents as well as Northwest Territories businesses. In that socio-economic agreement, there is a higher percentage of labour when the mine is carrying out its operation than in the construction phase. There is still a percentage of labour that needs to be hired in the Northwest Territories and reside in the Northwest Territories. It is the responsibility of the Minister responsible for RWED to monitor that situation. Not only am I hearing the concern from the honourable Member across the House, I am hearing concerns from other people throughout the Northwest Territories on why they cannot get employment at this new mine that is being created in the Northwest Territories. I will take it upon myself to make sure that when Mr. Kakwi arrives back in Yellowknife tomorrow, that I will direct him to send in whatever type of people he has to monitor that situation to check for health care cards, NWT driver's licence, and proof of NWT residence. We might as well make sure that everybody understands when we sign an agreement, we will live up to our part, we will honour and will be honourable, but we expect them to do the same, and if not, then they will deal with us. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 462-13(4): Socio-Economic Impact and Benefits Agreement

MR. OOTES:

I thank the Premier for telling me the steps he wants to take to ensure that the construction companies will be chased, that they comply with the agreement which will result in less leakage and greater capture of wages and benefits for the north. My question for the Premier is, is it correct? Will he also address the question of having transportation methods stop here in Yellowknife to pick up northern employees to go to the mine site and that it not be a fly over situation?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 462-13(4): Socio-Economic Impact and Benefits Agreement

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have made it very clear from the offset that we support this development, that we as a government will not support a fly over economy, that is fly over us as northerners and bypass us and leave us with nothing in the end. We have been very strong on that issue and will continue to do that. I will make sure that our government and the responsible Minister puts together a plan on how to look in to make sure that our companies and people are benefiting and the mine is being resupplied out of Yellowknife as well. It is our responsibility to do that. We believe strongly we can do that and work with the mining company to do that. This is not going to be another Norman Wells pipeline or Lupin mine, where we do not see a lot of benefits for northerners. Also, we will not allow BHP to pass on their responsibility to their construction companies. Ultimately, BHP mines is the one that signed the socio-economic agreement with us. They are going to be ultimately

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responsible, not only for their own company, but for the construction companies that work for them, trucking companies and the rest. We have to hold them responsible to live up to their agreement and we have to be responsible to make sure that our work force is ready to go to work. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 462-13(4): Socio-Economic Impact and Benefits Agreement

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The other aspect of this concern lies in the area of education and training and I would like to ask the Premier this question. The education and training programs that we have established that agreements are being formulated on are for the training of mining, but not necessarily for the training of construction work of the mine. Will training take place for construction work? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 462-13(4): Socio-Economic Impact and Benefits Agreement

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as training goes, we do already have a construction training program throughout the Northwest Territories that we implemented approximately three years ago through the Housing Corporation, DPW, Education, and we will continue to do that. We have to work with the mining company and the contractors for apprenticeship programs that are available to the people of the Northwest Territories. I want to make it very clear that we understand that we have to train our people. It is one thing saying to the mining companies, "you hire north, you hire our people," but we have a certain responsibility to make sure our people are ready to go to work. The people themselves, the young people of the Northwest Territories, have a responsibility that you better be on that plane when your time is to go into work. You better be there every time that you are supposed to be there or do not come crying back to us. Our jobs as leaders is to facilitate development and give them the opportunity, but their job is to show up to work and to show up to work on time and produce. We will work with people, we will work with the mining company, we will work with our own people to make this thing happen, but everybody has their own responsibility too. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 463-13(4): Registration Under the Business Incentive Policy

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Premier. Under the Business Incentive Policy, this morning I realized that an old business - for over ten years - was not registered under the Business Incentive Policy. How is this registration set up? How come this business was not registered under the Business Incentive Policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 463-13(4): Registration Under the Business Incentive Policy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just because you carry business out in the Northwest Territories and you are an old business, does not mean that you get the Business Incentive Policy automatically. You have to take the initiative. You have to take the responsibility to apply for your Business Incentive Policy. If the Member would make those circumstances known to the Minister of Public Works and Services, who is in charge of that, get an application and give the person's name, we can get that done for them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 463-13(4): Registration Under the Business Incentive Policy

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) I understand that even after having been in business for about ten years doing contract work, if he is not registered under the Business Incentive Policy, it will be pretty difficult for him to acquire contracts. How long would it take to get an application through the Business Incentive Policy? Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 463-13(4): Registration Under the Business Incentive Policy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the individual has been contracting for ten years without a Business Incentive Policy, he can continue to contract. It is just that he will not get that 15 percent and five percent assessment on his bids if he was bidding against other people. In the spirit of good government, as we speak right now, Mr. Barnabas, there is a Business Incentive Policy application form being faxed to your constituent. So that is good government, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 464-13(4): Update on Med-Emerg Review

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to see a lot of our Members and fellow-Iqaluits are following along the negotiated/sole-sourced contract line of questioning (inaudible). My question is on the Med-Emerg contract, which is a sole-sourced contract. Over the past few weeks, Med-Emerg has been doing consultations in the communities on health care. Can the Minister for Health and Social Services update us on the status of the review?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 464-13(4): Update on Med-Emerg Review

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HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the professionals have finished their consultations in the communities with different groups and different staff personnel. They have put together a draft strategic plan that they plan on bringing to Yellowknife next week. I have a meeting scheduled with the steering committee members. Ms. Cournoyea from Inuvik, Ms.

Hanson from Iqaluit and Mrs. Ehaloak from Cambridge Bay were the other steering committee members along with myself. Next Tuesday, we plan on sitting down with the planning coordinator of the Med-Emerg International Planning Team and go over some of those draft plans, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 464-13(4): Update on Med-Emerg Review

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was quick work on behalf of the Med-Emerg group. If the draft strategic plan is accepted by Ms. Cournoyea, Ms. Hanson and the other people on the steering committee, what would the process be after that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Can I ask you to rephrase your question, please, you are asking the Minister to guess. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Med-Emerg contract is done in different stages. The first is consultation, the second stage would be the review of the consultation. What will be the next stage after that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 464-13(4): Update on Med-Emerg Review

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the next stage, after reviewing the draft plan if it were seen as being acceptable, would be to go back and finalize a plan that would be brought back to ourselves, the Department of Health and Social Services, the lead department, some time in April. Subsequent to that, we would formulate a public discussion document from the main points in that plan and take it on a broader scale throughout the Northwest Territories for additional input, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 464-13(4): Update on Med-Emerg Review

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the strategic plan and the terms and conditions that reference the Med-Emerg were tabled in this House so I think the Members are familiar with the contract route. After all this work is done in April, are you ahead of schedule right now or on schedule with the main work contract? Where are we right now with that contract?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 464-13(4): Update on Med-Emerg Review

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would say that we were right on schedule, if not possibly a little bit early. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 464-13(4): Update on Med-Emerg Review

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is the hope of our region and I guess other regions of the territories, that the report will culminate in the facilitation of the building of the two new hospitals as called for in the federal agreement. I wonder if Mr. Ng, at this time, could confirm that indeed at the end of this consultative process, we will be moving forward on the construction? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 464-13(4): Update on Med-Emerg Review

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to clarify, first of all in the federal agreement, there is no

agreement to build two new facilities. One new facility was designated in Inuvik and an expansion in Iqaluit. However, I have committed to try to bring on stream a new facility in Iqaluit as well. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, the plan still would be to flush out what needs are there, both facility-wise and program-wise, throughout the Northwest Territories, both east and west from this strategic planning process. After that is done, to try to identify the timing and the financing to allow some additional programs and facilities to proceed, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 465-13(4): Inquiry For a Committee to Monitor Economic Spin-off

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier in reference to some of the comments and statements that were made earlier, regarding companies like BHP and other major companies that work in the north. Can the Minister advise this House whether or not there is any form of a committee in place that would be monitoring or reviewing the economic spin-off that is or should be taking place in the NWT? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mahsi cho. Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 465-13(4): Inquiry For a Committee to Monitor Economic Spin-off

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am unaware of a committee that would be in place to monitor the benefits of mineral development and other development that is happening in the Northwest Territories. It is a responsibility of RWED to monitor the benefits, especially from the BHP development

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because of the socio-economic agreement we do have with that specific mining company. I would be pleased, once I talk to the Minister, to have the Minister inform all the Members, by letter, of how we are monitoring that issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 466-13(4): Support for Training Programs for Contractors

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment in regards training needs, especially in the area of inaudible. A lot of contractors in place now try to establish training programs in their bids for contracts. Does the Minister support that initiative by contractors? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 466-13(4): Support for Training Programs for Contractors

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are always interested in seeing contractors and other third parties involved in training in the north. This government devotes a significant portion of its capital budget, through the building and learning program, to training residents of the north in the construction area. We are always looking for ways to increase that training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KRUTKO:

I seek unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

MR. SPEAKER:

You already recognized someone in the gallery. You had your recognition of visitors in the gallery. You cannot have it again. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get consent to go back to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Ootes, you have unanimous consent.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a northern businessman who has been responsible for construction of many buildings here in the Northwest Territories over the years. I would like to introduce Art Christensen and Winnie Blake, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize two constituents from Kugluktuk, Mr. Donald Haviyok is a former mayor of the community with whom I had the pleasure of working with during the past two years. He is currently the economic development officer. With him is his better half, Margaret, who is an elementary school teacher in the community.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. We are back to item 7, written questions. Mr. Barnabas.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 22-13(4): Terms of Employment for Principal

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On February 26, 1997, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment responded to written questions in the House on February 5, 1997, regarding concerns on the term of employment of principals under the Education Act. After reviewing his responses to the questions, I have

additional written questions I would like to ask the Minister.

1. Does the change in the term of employment also include the termination of the principal?
2. Why does not the district education authority have the responsibility for terminating principals in their own communities?
3. Does not this legislation render communities powerless when it comes to terminating principals?
4. How does the legislation empower communities when it is the GNWT that is dictating the terms and conditions of employment for principals?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Written questions. Mr. Krutko.

Written Question 23-13(4): Funding for Alcohol and Drug Treatment Programs

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

1. Can the Minister provide a breakdown of alcohol and drug treatment funding spent both in the NWT and southern Canada for the 1994/95, 1995/96, and year-to-date 1996/97 fiscal years?
2. Can the Minister identify how much funding will be provided to the regional health board for alcohol and drug programs for the year 1997/98?
3. Can the Minister identify how much funding was spent on the Tl'oondih Healing Program during 1994/95, 1995/96, and year-to-date 1996/97 fiscal years?

Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Written questions. Mr. Picco.

Written Question 24-13(4): Negotiated and Sole-Sourced Contract Policies

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have some written questions addressed to the Premier. Would the premier provide copies of the following policies:

1. Negotiated contract policy of this government.
2. A copy of the sole-sourced contract policy.

Could the Premier indicate the dates and nature of any updates that have been made to these two policies over the past two years.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return to Written Question 15-13(4): Information On Grievances

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, Return to Written Question 15-13(4) asked by Mr. Erasmus to the chairman of the Financial Management Board concerning information on grievances.

Information on Grievances

First and Second Level Grievances:

First and second level grievances are addressed by individual departments. Statistics are not kept centrally and not all departments currently track grievance details. The information provided by departments to date for 1996 is as follows:

There were 55 first level grievances filed, 13 were resolved at this level. 59 grievances were moved to or filed at second level with 14 of these being resolved at that level.

I have provided a detailed breakdown of these statistics by department to Members under separate cover.

Third Level Grievances:

Third level grievances and arbitrations are dealt with centrally in Labour Relations and Compensation. A summary of third level grievance statistics is as follow:

	1996	1995
- third level grievances filed:	96	141
- third level grievances resolved:	47	71
- grievances sent to arbitration:	26	33

Not all unresolved grievances have been forwarded to arbitration.

I have provided a chart of third level grievances and arbitrations by department for 1995 and 1996 under separate cover.

Return To Written Question 16-13(4): Staff Training Participation Levels

A provisional Return to Written Question 16-13(4) asked by Mr. Erasmus to the Chairman of the Financial Management Board on staff training participation levels.

This is to advise that more time is required for a full response to Mr. Erasmus' question.

Information must be gathered from all departments. The return will be completed by March 31, 1997.

Return to Written Question 17-13(4): Lay-Off Provisions - Education Leave Option

A Return to Written Question 17-13(4) asked by Mr. Krutko to the Chairman of the Financial Management Board concerning lay-off provisions and education leave option.

Lay-off Provisions - Education Leave Option

During the period of November 1, 1995, through December 31, 1996, 28 laid off employees chose the education assistance option under the lay-off provisions. Of these 28 individuals, one had subsequently obtained casual employment with the government while awaiting the commencement of her education program. None of the other individuals have had further employment contracts with the government.

The list of institutions selected under the education assistance options include: Athabasca University, Aurora College, Dalhousie, Georgian College, Mount Royal, NAIT, Nunavut College, SAIT, Sheridan College, University of Alberta, University of British Columbia, University of Manitoba, University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, York University.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Mr. Erasmus.

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Reply 4-13(4)

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak on affirmative action. I would like to join my colleague from Yellowknife South who, unfortunately, is not here today. I too denounce the Affirmative Action Policy. Not because I want to do away with it, as my colleague would denounce it, first because it was deliberately structured to fail by setting levels too high and by not targeting employment views such as middle management and senior management for specific improvement. Secondly, because affirmative action is not being properly implemented, some people do not know how to do it properly. Others simply do not want to. I denounce it because people who get into the system are not trained to get into middle management, then to senior management. My

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colleague did make a good point when he said that the only way to increase aboriginal employment beyond the current 36 percent and maintain competency within the public service is to increase education levels among aboriginal people.

Mr. Speaker, I thought that he was going to make a motion. I thought that he was going to increase the money in adult education. I would have gladly seconded the motion to get people off of social assistance so people can take advantage of jobs, government jobs, jobs in mining from impact benefit agreements. Unfortunately, he did not make such a motion. A few days later, I thought he would surely support a motion to increase money in adult basic education, if we have extra money, but he did not support that either. The Member indicated that by building houses for people we are subliminally saying it is okay for people to have lots of babies, particularly teens to have kids. By not voting for this motion for more money for education, the Member is subliminally saying it is okay for every third aboriginal person to have an education less than grade nine, that it is okay for one-third of the aboriginal population to live on an annual income of \$13,500 or less. I do agree that the problem is not that the hiring system works against

aboriginal people, it is the people doing the hiring. It is the people who hire friends, hire manager's friends or relatives, the people that tailor qualifications to a person's resume, people that are simply racist, who do not believe that aboriginal people can do a good job and will not hire them, or who put qualifications really high because they know that aboriginal people will not have the qualifications. When I hear that affirmative action is an insult to aboriginal people that is an insult to my intelligence because I know that we would never even have a chance without affirmative action. The current rate of unemployment and the current rate of 30 percent employment of aboriginal people in this government would be worse without affirmative action.

Mr. Speaker, there are affirmative action people out there walking the streets with degrees. I am talking about aboriginal people and non-aboriginal people. It is simply too easy for interviewers to find a weakness. Mr. Speaker, on affirmative action, an applicant should get a job unless an interviewer indicates that he or she cannot handle the job, not because they see a few weaknesses. I know of many injustices but most people simply do not appeal. Mr. Speaker, the Member said that affirmative action puts aboriginal people down. Actually, affirmative action puts aboriginal people on a better footing. Right now, people get interviewed because of it, then are dismissed through the interview. I intend to address that not simply by asking questions in this House. Asking questions has resulted in nothing, zero, zilch. We need to work on changes.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to believe my colleague from Yellowknife South. I would like to think that people operate on an equal footing when they apply for jobs, I really would. The simple fact is that aboriginal people do not. In the Edmonton Journal on January 19th, there is an article and in it Professor Carroll Taylor who is in anthropology at York University, she specializes in anti-racism studies, she says that research shows minorities in Canada face discrimination on the job from hiring to promotions. She is quoted as saying, "there is a large body of knowledge that says if your skin is black or brown as opposed to white, you experience a whole set of discriminatory barriers." The same article went on to cite a study which showed south Asians earn 20 percent less than white people and blacks earn 16 percent less than white people across Canada. And it cannot be said it is because of difference in education or ability, because the people who did the study

considered age, occupation, education, experience and language ability.

Mr. Speaker, last year there were 400 complaints filed with the Human Rights Commission of Canada for employment discrimination based on race, colour or national and ethnic origin. Forty-three percent of those were settled, which means that the complainant and the employer came to an agreement on their own or through the works of the Commission or through decision by the tribunal. The Human Rights Commission indicates these complaints are just the tip of the iceberg because most people do not file complaints. Mr. Speaker, people do not complain to the Human Rights Commission regarding figments of their imagination. The reason they do is nearly 16 percent of Canadians admit to extreme intolerance or racism and 33 percent of others are somewhat racist. That is a total of 49 percent. One out of every two people, Mr. Speaker, are racist, admit to being racist in this country.

So how does this racism or discrimination affect the workplace? One Toronto study found that white job applicants got three job offers to every job offer made to blacks and blacks were treated differently during the hiring process. Another in-depth survey showed 80 percent of corporate headhunters and all job agency recruiters received requests to discriminate by race. Ninety-four percent of them said that they rejected job seekers on the basis of colour. Mr. Speaker, I am sure their prejudicialness did not stop at blacks and Asians and it extends to aboriginal people.

Mr. Speaker, one of our main problems is the media. A survey of 20 English language newspapers showed that less than 2 percent employees in the media are visible minorities, natives or disabled and major TV advertisers produce commercials that essentially paint an all white Canada. This has prompted one person to say, "if we are not accurately seen on the mirror the media holds up to society, then clearly we are somehow not part of that society."

Mr. Speaker, schools contribute to the problem as well. Studies show that Canadian textbooks contain biases and stereotype minority groups. It also shows that teaching materials do not reflect history and literature of visible minorities or aboriginal people. It also shows visible minorities are more likely to be sent to special education classes and basic level courses. I will give you an example. An aboriginal student I know wanted to be a doctor. That person's average was over 80 percent in grade 11 but he had

to take grade 12 all over again because he had been told to take level 33 subjects by the counsellor, meaning English 33, Math 33, that type of thing. In the meantime to get into university, you need level 30 courses, English 30, Math 30, Social Studies 30. Anyway, this person wasted a whole year going back to school. During that year he got into alcohol and drugs, partially because he was going school with younger kids. Unfortunately, this alcoholic and drug induced haze lasted for four or five years so the person actually wasted five or six

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years. Luckily, he came out of it and took a two-year program at Aurora College and is at the top of his class and he is going on for a degree.

Mr. Speaker, a study of 14 police forces showed a minority participation from zero percent to three percent. The Manitoba and Nova Scotia provincial governments established commissions of inquiry to look into accusations of racial injustices in their provincial justice system. A quick one month snapshot of the NWT inmates show that 87 percent of the inmates are aboriginal people. Of course, we cannot determine why, but that is one of the facts that are there.

Mr. Speaker, racism or discrimination also affects your ability to find a place to live. In 1988, the Quebec Human Rights Commission reported that 30 percent of blacks were turned down three or more times for rental accommodation compared to 12 percent of whites. A 1986 Toronto study showed that 31 of 73 landlords or 44 percent indicated they discriminated on the basis of race when choosing tenants. I will give you an example of this. When we were going to school in Saskatoon, my aunt was replying to ads in the paper for a place to stay. She had made an appointment a day earlier. Five minutes before she was going to leave, she phoned to make sure that the apartment was still open. She was assured it was. It took her about five minutes to get to the point where she was to have her interview and to look at the place. As soon as the landlord saw her, she told her, "I just rented the place out," yet five minutes ago on the phone, the place was still open. There had been no time to show the place to anyone or to make a deal. My sisters told me they ran across similar problems in Saskatoon. My son recently told me of similar occurrences in Lethbridge. Mr. Speaker, aboriginal people experience racism from the day they are born to the day they die. No white person can know what it is like. Some can imagine, but that is

all. They cannot know what it is like to be ignored, treated with disdain, treated like a non-person simply for having dark skins. They cannot know what it is like getting called names, getting into fights, being served last in a restaurant or at a store. You cannot know what it is like to go into the bush for a spring hunt and have the city flatten your house while you are gone, have all your worldly possessions except the clothes on your back destroyed. Mr. Speaker, this is not a figment of my imagination. This has happened here in Yellowknife. It did not happen recently, but it did happen. The people did not receive a penny of compensation. My grandfather's house was flattened too when he died. There was no opportunity for family members to move in or even to remove valued items. The house was flattened without anyone being told. There was a son and a daughter living in Yellowknife. Nobody received a penny of compensation for that, either. A few years ago, the City even admitted to flattening that house.

Mr. Speaker, I have lived here all my life except when I have been going to school or working some place else, which is not that long. I remember fighting as a child because I was Indian. I still see kids fighting today because of racism, whether they are Indian, black, or Asian. I see racism every day. It is important to point out that not everybody is racist, but it does exist here and in the south. If we go to restaurants or stores, others are served first or they are served faster. By that, I mean I might have to wait 10 minutes. Maybe not me, because I am a highly visible person now, but another aboriginal person might have to wait for 10 minutes while a non-aboriginal person, Caucasian, comes in, and they are served immediately. Just last weekend, my wife and mother went into a restaurant while I parked the car. When I went in, I found them seated in the furthest corner by the kitchen door. There were about 50 tables in that place, Mr. Speaker. The place was virtually empty. We sat there for an hour, eating and talking, and hardly anyone came in. Yet, my wife and mother were put into the darkest corner. They almost had to use a vehicle to get to the buffet. They were even put at another level so they could not be seen by the majority of the customers.

Mr. Speaker, any one of us can go into a bathroom, a public washroom downtown and are likely to see written on the walls, "effing Indians, effing blacks." Last summer, I saw a fight downtown at night. People were watching. Some of the people, who were not even involved in the fight, they were standing there yelling at an aboriginal person, "You effing Indian."

Last summer, behind the Bank of Commerce, I stopped some kids who were teasing an old man. They too were calling him an effing Indian. Mr. Speaker, my son is 10 years old and he almost quit hockey last summer because of racist remarks by kids at the hockey school. I had to talk him out of it. It took me a long time. He has also told us about racist remarks at school by kids of prominent Yellowknife citizens. Mr. Speaker, young girls in this city, aboriginal girls, are being turned into prostitutes to get drugs like cocaine. In the south, people have aboriginal girls as prostitutes, not only on the streets but, worse, they have them in apartments where they cannot leave all day. Men are brought in at a steady stream, sometimes they see 40 to 50 clients a day. Mr. Speaker, further examples of racism are easy to find. Protests were underway in BC last month because 200 women had been killed in the province. The vast majority of them were aboriginal women. In the Somalia Affair, the first person charged was an aboriginal person. I believe he was the only person who went to jail. Luckily, the media made a big hullabaloo about the situation or others probably would not have even been charged. Some years ago, an aboriginal girl was killed in northern Manitoba. Virtually, nothing was done to find the killers for 15 years or so. In Saskatchewan, a white supremacist, shot an Indian through the door as he was leaving the store. The killer, who owned the store, was not charged until there were marches, petitions, and everything started by aboriginal organizations. This is not only in the south, Mr. Speaker. A few years back, here in Yellowknife, an aboriginal woman was killed and cut up. Eventually they found that it was done by a non-aboriginal cab driver. In the last few years, we have heard of several young aboriginal girls that are missing. You never hear of similar things about non-aboriginal girls. That tells you something. You can go into virtually any government office, you will see a brown face at the front, the secretary/receptionist. Go into the back rooms, where the power is, you do not see any brown faces back there or very few.

Mr. Speaker, racism has a long history in Canada. In the 1400s, after the Europeans had finished raping their countries of their resources, they started travelling. They would land somewhere, then plant a stick in the ground with a dirty old rag on top. They would say, "This country belongs to the King of England/King of France/King of Holland." They did not do this

for patriotism. They did it for whoever happened to be paying them at the time. The pay was so good that people were actually fighting to get sponsored by royalty. Slaves were also a hot item for white folks. They took black people from Africa and transported them across the ocean to the Americas, where they bred them like animals then sold them on a trading block to the highest bidder. That was not good enough. They enslaved Indians, as well, in their homeland. The church is not left out of it. In fact, the Catholic church seems to still be rewarding slavery. I say this because the catholic church recently canonized a woman as a saint, who had had African and Indian slaves. The church rationalized this by saying they would have been treated worse if they were owned by other slave owners. There is some sense there, I suppose.

Mr. Speaker, 500 years ago, aboriginal people found Cabot on their shores. He was probably half dead from scurvy and thirst. The aboriginal people dragged him ashore and saved his life. Once he was strong enough, he staggered up and planted a stick in the ground with a dirty old rag on top and said, "This country belongs to the King of England." At the time, there were over a 100 million aboriginal people in the Americas, over a 100 million people. That did not matter to the Europeans, because the aboriginals were not Christians. They said they could claim it anyways. Mr. Speaker, there is not a shred of international law to support the proposition that one country can claim another country or land that is already inhabited by aboriginal people. In the Western Sahara case, which was decided in the International Court of Justice sponsored by the United Nations, the court said that you can only claim land classified as terra-nulius, and land inhabited by tribes or aboriginal people is not classified as terra-nulius. It is not classified as terra-nulius, which means that another country cannot legally claim it.

Mr. Speaker, in an America case, Justice Marshall invented the Doctrine of Discovery. He said that countries could claim tribal lands because aboriginal people were not Christian. He knew international law, because international law was presented to him in the case. The Doctrine of Discovery was refuted by the fathers of international law, such as Francisco de Vitorio, Samuel Pufendorf, and the great Dutch scholar, Hugo Grotius. Grotius said, "the Spaniards acquired no greater right over the American Indians land in consequence of that defect of faith, than the Indians possessed over the Spaniards if any of the former had been the first foreigners to come and see

Spain." Mr. Speaker, Justice Marshall ignored the fathers of international law. He ignored the fact there were a 100 million Indian people in the Americas. Some of those First Nations had cities as large as the largest European cities. A few of those nations even had written languages. Some of them built pyramids and people still do not know how they were built with such precision. Mr. Speaker, the United States of America took half of its constitution from the great law of the Iroquois almost word for word. Justice Marshall ignored all of this and said aboriginal people have something called aboriginal title. What is aboriginal title? Mr. Speaker, aboriginal title is the lowest form of land ownership known to man. You do not really own the land, you cannot rent it out, you cannot lease it, you cannot sell it, you cannot use it for collateral, you cannot leave it to someone when you die. But someone else can come and put a stick in your land, same principle as the old dirty rag on the stick a few years back where people used to get paid to claim land for kings. Today people are paid to stake claims for developers. Some people stake for themselves, not too many. Once that land is staked, people can sell it, or use it for collateral. People can develop mines and sell all your resources and you do not get one penny from it. All the while, you still have aboriginal title. You do not gain from the development on your lands.

A good example is the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. Giant Mine and Con Mine are virtually right underneath us. There are other mines in the area, like Ptarmigan Mines, they have taken hundreds upon hundreds of millions of dollars out of the ground. Yellowknives Dene First Nation has not received one penny. Not one lousy penny out of all this development. They have received something, they have received lung problems from the emissions from Giant. The water is now unsafe to drink. They have to buy water. BHP is even worse than that. They are into negotiations with the government negotiators. Government negotiators agreed the Yellowknives Dene First Nation could claim the Lac De Gras area or the BHP area. For two years, the negotiators led them to believe this, that they could claim this area. I know because I was one of the negotiators for a year. After two years, they suddenly said, "you cannot claim it because of advanced exploration." Nobody I know had ever heard of advanced exploration up until that time. At any rate, Justice Marshall said aboriginal people could not own the land because they are not Christian. Mr. Speaker, many people in this world are not Christian. Many are Atheists, millions of people are Muslims, millions of others are other non-Christian

religions. Can you imagine the uproar if the governments suddenly said these people could not own land because they are not Christians? The 1776 Royal Proclamation said all the land in the Commonwealth was reserved for Indians. The King sent treaty commissioners around to extinguish aboriginal title because only the King and Queen could buy the land. Treaty commissioners had authority to negotiate. Sometimes they negotiated for days. But many of the terms the Indians agreed to were not put into the treaties. In Manitoba, in Treaty 1, the commissioner's report indicates that, "Indians wanted two-thirds of the province for a reserve. They had been led to suppose that

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large tracts of land were to be reserved for hunting and timber. That is absurd." The commissioner also ensured them there would not be any interference with their religion. Their culture will not be altered. The Treaty 8, which includes Yellowknife, Lutselk'e, Fort Smith, Hay River and Fort Resolution, the commissioner's report indicated that the commissioner promised the aboriginal people they would never have to pay taxes. To this day, they pay every tax the non-aboriginal people pay. The only Indians who do not pay taxes are on the reserves. That is not because the government is honouring treaty promises, it is because of the Indian Act. The Indian Act, section 87, which says that you do not have to pay taxes for things on reserves.

Mr. Speaker, aboriginal people were promised one square mile of land for a family of five. It is bad enough the government lied about treaty rights, but when the Indians went to choose their reserved lands, they were only allowed to choose the worst land available. Sometimes, it was hard to grow a potato on that land. Mr. Picco will tell you it is pretty hard to find land that bad.

At the same time, the government was enticing the Europeans to come to Canada with a promise of free land. People came from Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Holland to claim this land. Remember, the government had promised one square mile of land to the Indians in the treaties. To this day, some bands do not have reserve lands. Others have some of their land, but not all.

Of course, the settlers received all of their land right away. In many cases, they received more land than the Indians, the original land owners. The settlers also received cattle and supplies from the government.

Pretty soon, they had enticed so many settlers here that all of the good land was given away to the settlers. They started taking land back from the Indians. My professor, who is a non-aboriginal person at the University of Saskatchewan, told our class about fraud and the use of high-pressure tactics by the government. The federal government passed laws to facilitate the fleecing of the reserve lands from the Indians.

One act immediately distributed up to 50 percent of the purchase price of reserved lands to band members. My professor told us of an Indian agent who came into a room, after he had called a meeting, and threw a huge bag of money on the table. He said, "who wants some money?" Needless to say, the land was surrendered.

Another act allowed companies or municipalities to take reserve land. They did not need the consent of the Indians, only of the Governor-in-Counsel. Another act said that Indians could be removed from any reserve next to a town of 80 people or more. Indian agents took advantage of this. They sold land to their friends and families quite cheaply. The result is over 500 reserves illegally lost land through transactions like this.

Today, the government is in specific claims, which is an attempt to rectify all of this lost land. There are 600 specific claims. Last week, I heard on the radio about the Tarmanastic Indians, where the government used pressure tactics, probably those described above. That is what it said on the radio, pressure tactics. To defraud the Indians out of 30,000 acres of prime farm land. The Indians were left with bush and rocky country.

Mr. Speaker, the government could not take reserve land back fast enough. They had to get Indians off of the reserve lands, because they wanted to get more settlers. The next plan was to assimilate Indians. If they could assimilate them, they would not need any reserves. They started something called enfranchisement to get Indians off reserves. Many took a test and passed English and math. They were no longer an Indian. But there were not many takers, because if a person passed this test, they had to move off of the reserve. The government sent people around and these people arbitrarily chose people for tests. If they passed, they were white and had to move off the reserve.

This did not work very well either. People were failing on purpose. The government decided to use bribery,

to entice people to give up their treaty status. They made laws that said you had to give up your treaty status to join the army, if you wanted to go to university or if you wanted to drink, if you wanted to own a gun, to vote, to have a lawyer. You could not do these things if you were an Indian. You could not own land either. Not until the 1950's.

They paid people to sell their status. Many people sold their treaty status for a few dollars, because they wanted to do these things. Assimilation was still not working fast enough. They used residential schools to attack the most precious resource of the aboriginal people, their children. They began to take kids away at the age of six or seven. The parents did not see them for years. Many of the kids were never seen again. They died or simply did not return.

One book indicates that, by the turn of the 19th century, about 50 percent of the children who went to residential school, died there. Once they got there, they had their hair cut off, which was contrary to spiritual beliefs. Most aboriginal nations kept their hair long, unless there was a death in the family. They were also punished if they spoke their language. They were punished, both mentally and physically, if they did things wrong. We now know that many were sexually abused.

The next thing they did was they started something called a pass system. This was originated to keep non-aboriginal people off of reserves. But the Indian agents illegally extended it to aboriginal people. They told the aboriginal people they could not leave the reserves without a pass. They used this to prevent adults from getting kids out of residential schools, because of the horror stories the parents were hearing. They also used this to keep people from meeting, because they were getting angry the government was not keeping its treaty promises.

To give this deception an air of legitimacy, they began to charge people with vagrancy if they saw them off the reserves. Indian people had virtually no knowledge of the law. They thought they were being prosecuted for not having a pass. Often, the Indian agent himself was the JP, so this was easily done.

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Kids that were lucky enough, or perhaps un-lucky enough, to survive, could not relate to their parents when they got home. They could not raise their own families because they were not raised at home. They had no parenting skills. They were taught to hate

being Indian. Taught to be ashamed of being Indian. One friend told me the school he went to had pictures on the wall. The pictures had white people walking to heaven, and Indians walking to hell. Why would a kid want to be proud of being an Indian when he sees pictures like that?

To make it easier to assimilate and conquer the aboriginal people, the government began to use divide and conquer tactics. A tactic that is still used to this day. For instance, the regional claims. The government, to divide and conquer, invented something called Metis people, Non-status Indians, and Status Indians. This is the only country in the world that has this. Nowhere else will you find this. You go to Mexico, South America, the United States, and Africa, if you are one iota Indian, you are Indian. If you are one iota African, you are African. Even the Inuit, if you have one drop of Inuit blood, you are considered Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, before the Europeans arrived, America's aboriginal people were totally self-reliant and self-sufficient, there was no such thing as welfare because people shared things. They looked after the poor, the sick and the weak. There were no alcohol or drug problems. There was no unemployment. What do we find today?

In the western NWT today, 33 percent of aboriginal people have less than grade nine, 43 percent of aboriginal people have less than grade 10. If you look at enrolment at the universities, non-aboriginal Canadians are in universities and enrolled at a rate of 6.8 percent and aboriginal people at 3.7. The non-aboriginal rate is twice as high as aboriginal people. The 1996 grade 12 graduates in the NWT were 166 non-aboriginal graduates and 97 aboriginal graduates. Mr. Speaker, the non-aboriginal population is only two-thirds of that of the aboriginal people, yet, the graduates are two times that of the aboriginal people.

Looking at the post-secondary levels of schooling and once you know that the aboriginal people, 43 percent of them have less than grade 10, then you look at the levels of schooling, 36 percent of Metis, 26 percent of Dene, and 25 percent of Inuit have some post-secondary schooling. This shows that aboriginal people are going back to school as adults even though they have not made it through high school. This shows why we need to put money to adult basic education into increasing the success rates in post-secondary institutions. Mr. Speaker, remembering that aboriginal people have less than grade 10, 43

percent of them, there is a direct link between low levels of education and dependence on social assistance. In the NWT in November 1988, which is the last year that I could get statistics on, the grade levels for social assistance recipients, people with more than grade 10 was only 5.6 percent. All the rest were grade 10 and less, 94 percent of them, Mr. Speaker.

In the Aurora College corporate plan, it shows a clear link between education, employment opportunity, and pay levels. As indicated earlier, 43 percent of aboriginal people have not completed grade 10, but it shows that if you have grade 11 or less, you will have to live on an average pay of \$21,000. If you have grade 8 or less, you will have to live on \$13,000, Mr. Speaker.

Remembering the link between income and education and the poor levels of education of aboriginal people and remembering that education and income are directly linked to poverty. Canadian facts on poverty show that high school dropout rates for children from poor families is more than two times the rate for children from non-poor families. It shows that up to 75 percent of all children in care come from low income families. It shows that child mortality is twice as high at the lowest end of the income scale as opposed to the highest end. It shows that drowning is more than three times more common for boys of low income families than for other boys. It shows that children from low income families are almost two times more likely to have a psychiatric disorder, two times more likely to do poorly in school, and over two times more likely to develop a conduct disorder or to behave destructively than children from other families.

Mr. Speaker, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples highlights a loss of dollars in the current state of affairs. The Royal Commission indicates that \$5 billion a year in lost spending on financial assistance programs of limited success and lost revenue due to aboriginal people not contributing to the economy. It also indicates that aboriginal people lose \$3 billion a year in income mostly because they are not adequately educated.

Mr. Speaker, other studies show that all Canadians in the labour force of 15 or over, are making between \$2,000 and \$10,000. They have a rate for up to \$10,000 and there are 35 percent of Canadians at that level. This was in 1990. For aboriginal people the rate is 54 percent making \$10,000 or less.

Let us look at health and TB rates across Canada. The rates per thousand are seven cases per thousand. In the NWT, the 1990s average is almost 61 cases per thousand people. Total cases in the NWT from 1990 to 1996, the Dene people had 52 percent, the Inuit had 39 percent, the Metis less than one percent, and non-aboriginal nine percent. Life expectancy of

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aboriginal people from eight to 10 years was less than non-aboriginal people across Canada, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to get back to affirmative action. I would like to give some examples of circumvention of affirmative action. One person told me she had appealed because she did not get an interview. She won the appeal because she was qualified for the job. Appeal said she should have been interviewed. The government had to rerun the competition and the same qualifications for the job were in the ad. She applied again and again she did not get an interview. She appealed again. Before this could go any further, the job was deleted because of cutbacks. We do not know how many more times she would have had to appeal. Mr. Speaker, another person actually worked in a position and they got a job without an interview, another person in a lower position with much less education than that affirmative action candidate. The non-aboriginal candidate was a friend of the manager. This person had her job description changed. The job description was management with more money. The affirmative action employee's job was eliminated. This was done without competition for the other job, so she could not appeal. She did file a grievance but the union missed some dates and it went on and on until finally her term was over. This same person applied for another job, had all of the qualifications, interviewed, and no job. This person was told she had answered wrong, but she knew that she had not said whatever the interviewer claimed because what the interviewer said was simply, to put it bluntly, stupid. She did not appeal because she felt this was another racist situation. This same person applied on a secretarial position, which she was well qualified for, but she was not hired because another applicant had less opportunity to get the job because the first person had a university degree with years and years of secretarial experience. She was told that she could not get the job because the other person had less opportunity. The successful applicant had received a buyout and is still getting money to this day. Again, no appeal. Mr.

Speaker, this person is a fighter. If she did not appeal, how many more people out there do not appeal?

I know another person who is going to appeal because she did not get a job that she was qualified for. This was when Personnel Secretariat still had some staff. The staffing person told them not to, told them it is very difficult to get a job with the government if you appeal because you are labelled a bad egg. This person also did not appeal. Another person had an interview. This person did not get a job. He was told it was because he had a few weak answers in the interview. When he asked about affirmative action, he was told he got the interview because of affirmative action, but that he could not appeal because it was a management position. Yet, we were told in this House a few days ago, that affirmative action works the same for management. What good is affirmative action in a management position if you cannot appeal? Another person I know applied for a job in a mail room, P1. This person is a third year university student and very intelligent. He indicates that all you have to know is how to read and know your colours because everything is colour coded, but the daughter of a manager got the job. This person had no priority whatsoever. I told this young fellow to appeal, but he did not because he indicated that he would be blackballed and would not be able to get a job in the government.

Mr. Speaker, I have some statistics here that show the dismal failure of affirmative action in senior management of this government. As of February 11, 1997, this includes moving up from superintendents, regional superintendents, directors, assistant deputy ministers, and deputy ministers. This was done by looking at phone books and verifying that people were actually in these positions. There is a total of 165, 120 of them have no priority whatsoever, 15 of them are P1s, and 8 are P2s. That is approximately 73 percent which have no priority whatsoever. Mr. Speaker, looking at this, I see that 13.8 percent of these employees are P1s and P2s and another 13.5 percent are women with no priority. Mr. Speaker, what are we coming to when people who were born and raised in this country do not have the same priority status and cannot get a job as well as people who are newcomers to this land? I have another document which indicates that Cabinet is concerned that not enough aboriginal people are being hired. They are saying not to put qualifications too high. I assume this means they are worried about it, otherwise why would they bring it up. Mr. Speaker, I know the problem exists because working in government, people have

told me they have been present where qualifications were tailored for a specific person. Yet, Cabinet recently dismantled the Personnel Secretariat. This means that there is no central hiring agency. This means that the people wandering the streets here in Yellowknife have to go to about ten different places looking for jobs and writing off tons of resumes. Mr. Speaker, I have never heard of another organization with a \$1 billion budget that does not have a central hiring agency. To make matters worse, we were told in the House a few weeks ago, that almost one out of every three employment appeals were upheld in 1995. From the examples I have given you today and this is just the people that I know personally, we know that many people do not appeal.

We also have a situation where there is no independent agency in interviews. This leaves open a situation where there is a lack of consistency, where policies are open to different interpretations. For instance, one department might say something is weak, another department might say it is okay, there is nothing with it. It could mean different qualifications for the same job. This is probably an extreme example but someone might say a clerk typist needs a degree. There is also no way for an applicant to prove what was said in an interview. There is no objective person there, taking notes. The Minister indicated that interviews are not taped. We do not know how much weight is placed on the interview, either. Even worse, we do not know if each of the departments place a different weight on interviews. It is also not fair to managers to not have an independent person as an interviewer. It is very easy to claim nepotism or favouritism and it is very difficult to disprove. We already know there is a case where a person hired was related to a manager. This may have been perfectly legitimate. We do not know. We probably will never know because there was no independent person there. Mr. Speaker, having a watch dog present at interviews brings consistency. It brings fairness and parity. Mr. Speaker, if Cabinet proposed doing away with the Personnel Secretariat today, I would fight it tooth and nail and I will be trying to get independent people at interviews in the future.

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In the area of casual employment, Mr. Speaker, usually there is not even an interview. From what the Minister told us, there is also no advertising. I know some people who have been in the same job for years as a casual. It is not fair to the person or to the people looking for work. Those particular jobs that go on for years, casual after casual, should be term

positions or they should be made indeterminate. For one thing, the person in that job does not get all the benefits they should. Also, if nobody knows the job is available, people cannot apply and people cannot appeal. Additionally, this is really open to nepotism and favouritism. I know people who ask, "Do you know anyone who can do this?" Then they go on to hire people without going to the casual employee pool. They are very smart about it. They want you to stay quiet so they ask you too. Occasionally, you might get a friend hired to get a job. When you fall into that trap, you give a name and a person is hired, you cannot say anything either. Mr. Speaker, when I hear about the best person being hired for the job, this reminds me of that. Mr. Speaker, today there are avenues for free advertising. First, at HP Desk. Secondly, at Manpower, today known as Human Resources Canada. There is no reason why we cannot have all casual jobs put into these systems.

Mr. Speaker, we spend millions of dollars every year on our young people. We need to increase the loan fund to over \$20 million this year. I am talking about people born and raised here, both long-term northerners and aboriginal people. We need to ensure these people get into the system. Call it a return on investment. Mr. Speaker, this government cannot continue to say no job if you have no experience, while at the same time not providing opportunities to get jobs, so those young people can get experience. Our kids, our graduates, are knocking on the door, but nobody is answering. We need to answer the door. Open it up, so our graduates, our kids, can get in.

First of all, we have to try to make affirmative action work. We can do this by changing it, making it more relevant. Then, we need to ensure the policy is properly implemented. This should not cost much because once the government policy is there, it should be followed. That is what they are there for, to be followed for consistency. Then we should be holding workshops for managers, for human resource personnel, so they all have a proper knowledge of affirmative action. This will increase the likelihood of proper implementation. We should also put independent people back into interviews. Mr. Speaker, I have received many positive comments and questions about affirmative action. People out there are starting to feel that affirmative action is still alive, that it actually means something to be an affirmative action candidate. I am not only talking about aboriginal people. I am talking about long-term northerners also. People have stopped and told me that they are glad the profile is being raised again. We

need to ensure the profile stays at the forefront. Mr. Speaker, what do I say to those who want to do away with affirmative action? Mr. Speaker, I believe I have taken a pretty comprehensive look at things. Until someone can show me how things have changed, I will support affirmative action.

I said there were two things. The second thing we need to do is to pour money into adult education. Yes, Mr. Speaker, pour. I did not run for election to leave behind, as my legacy, the atrocious education, health, and living conditions I have described. To close a blind eye to accept that aboriginal people have to have a life expectancy rate 10 years less than non-aboriginal people, that 33 percent of aboriginal people in the western NWT have to have less than a grade 9 education, that 43 percent of aboriginal people have to have less than a grade 10 education, while only 3 percent of non-aboriginal people have less than grade 9, while 40 percent of aboriginal people remain unemployed as compared to 90 to 95 percent for non-aboriginal people who are employed. Not when it can be so easily fixed, simply by money. Why do we refuse to put more money into adult basic education while we are building arenas in communities that cannot afford to run them and letting out contracts through the business incentive program worth millions of dollars to grandfathered companies like airlines, banks, national construction companies, who really do not need our money to stay alive. I cannot help but wonder, what would the situation be if it was 33 percent of the non-aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories who had an education of less than grade 9, with incomes at the poverty level or less. Would there be millions being poured into adult basic education? Mr. Speaker, we will never know this because the situation will not come to that. But I do know we can do something about the current education levels in the Northwest Territories. I believe we should do so.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to leave people with a parting thought. Racism often has little to do with social or economic status. It has to do with the colour of your skin and it effects highly educated and wealthy people too, like Professor Francis Henry. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, I have Petition No. 20-13(4), 121 names from Pond Inlet, another petition requesting that Billy Merkosak be released early. He is the only helper of his mother, Leah Merkosak, who is 78 years old and requires assistance in her house as well as in other areas. We will keep reminding Billy Merkosak to behave himself when he is on his first release. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 11, reports of standing and special committees.
Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills.
Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents I would like to table. The Public Service Annual Report for 1995, Mr. Speaker. A list of the funds transferred exceeding \$250,000 for the period May 16, 1996 to January 1, 1997 pursuant to section 32(1), subsection 2 of the Financial Administration Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Morin.

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HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, the 1995/96 GNWT Annual Report on Official Languages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 12-13(4): Appointments for Nunavut Electoral Boundary Commission

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Electoral Boundaries Commissions Act has been passed by this Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS Part II of the Act establishes a commission called the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission;

AND WHEREAS Section 14(2) of the Act requires that there be a Commission composed of a Chairperson and two persons appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to appoint the members of the Nunavut Boundaries Commission so the necessary work can be undertaken; and,

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner that the Honourable Mr. Justice J.E. Richard be appointed chairperson and Mrs. Sandy Kusugak and Mr. Titus Allooooloo be appointed members of the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Your motion is in order. To the motion. A question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Motions. Mr. Barnabas.

Motion 13-13(4): Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to forward a motion stating,

WHEREAS section 21 of the Electoral Boundaries Commissions Act provides that the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission shall prepare a report containing recommendations respecting the area, boundaries, name and representation of new electoral districts proposed for Nunavut by the Commission;

AND WHEREAS section 23 of the Electoral Boundaries Commissions Act provides that the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission shall, in preparing its report, consider any guidelines or criteria proposed for its consideration by resolution of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is committed to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to provide for the first election of the members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut;

AND WHEREAS the Nunavut leaders, at their meeting held in Cambridge Bay on February 16 and 17, 1997, recommended that Nunavut should have no fewer than 20 and no more than 22 members;

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that the Legislative Assembly proposes, pursuant to section 23 of the Electoral Boundaries Commissions Act, that the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission ensure that its report contains options for both 10 or 11 dual member electoral districts and 20 to 22 single member electoral districts;

AND FURTHER, pursuant to subsection 24(1) of the Electoral Boundaries Commissions Act, the Legislative Assembly requests that the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission complete its report on or before June 30, 1997. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Barnabas, your motion is in order. To the motion. A question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Motions. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to move Motion 15-13(4) on the appointment of an Information and Privacy Commissioner today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Inuvik is seeking unanimous consent to deal with motion 15-13(4). Do we have any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Roland. You have unanimous consent.

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

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act came into force on December 31st, 1996;

AND WHEREAS the Act provides for the appointment of an Information and Privacy Commissioner by the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS it is the desire of the legislature to fill this position as quickly as possible;

AND WHEREAS the Management and Services Board has advertised and conducted a screening process;

AND WHEREAS the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act provides for the Legislative Assembly to designate a Committee to carry out the responsibilities of appointing an Acting Information and Privacy Commissioner to carry out statutory functions when the Information and Privacy

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Commissioner is temporarily absent or the office becomes vacant and the Assembly is not sitting;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that pursuant to section 61 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, that 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, that the Management and Service 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. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Reminding the Members we do have translation. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Motions. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go to Members' statements.

MR. SPEAKER:

No, we still have Members doing motions, I believe. Motions, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to move Motion 14-13(4) Policy on Non-Competitive Contracts, today.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Motion 14-13(4). Do we have any nays? You do not have unanimous consent, Mr. Ootes. Motions. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 3, Members' statements.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for High Arctic is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 3, Members' statements. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent, Mr. Barnabas but you have already made your statement. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 36(3) to give a second Member's statement concerning the tragic deaths in my constituency.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member is seeking unanimous consent to waiver Rule 36-3. Do we have any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Barnabas. You have unanimous consent.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Condolences to Family in Arctic Bay

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to send my prayers and condolences to a family teacher and family in Arctic Bay in my home riding. This tragic death in the family, their son was accidentally run over by a water truck and I would like to send my condolences to that family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker, I was going to seek request to turn to another item when this item is finished.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. We are back on first reading of bills. Mr. Ootes. First reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 11: Loan Authorization Act, 1997/98

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh that Bill 11, Loan Authorization Act, 1997/98, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honourable colleagues. I seek consent to proceed with the second reading of Bill 11, Loan Authorization Act, 1997/98, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Keewatin Central is seeking consent to deal with Bill 11. Do we have any nays? You have consent, Mr. Todd.

Bill 11: Loan Authorization Act, 1997/98

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I move and seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh that Bill 11, Loan Authorization Act, 1997/98 be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Commissioner or the Minister acting on behalf of the Commissioner to make loans to municipalities for the 1997/98 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principal of the bill. Question is being called. All those in favour.

All those opposed? Motion is carried. Bill 11 has had second reading and accordingly... Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker I would seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 69(2) and have Bill 11 Loan Authorization Act 1997/98 erased from the orders from committee of the whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 69(2). Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Todd, you have unanimous consent. Bill 11 accordingly is now referred into the committee of the whole for today. The second reading of bills. Mr. Ootes.

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MR. OOTES:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek unanimous consent to return to Item 7 on the order paper, written questions.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 7, written questions. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Ootes, you have unanimous consent.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 21-13(4): Policy on Non-Competitive Contracts

MR. OOTES:

My question is regarding policy on non-competitive contracts.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is responsible for the expenditure of public funds provided to them under the Appropriation Authority of the Legislative Assembly. The Government of the Northwest Territories has the responsibility to be fully accountable for the manner in which these funds are expended. The Government of the Northwest Territories awards a number of non-competitive contracts as well as those awarded through normal bidding and tendering processes including negotiated, sole-source, construction management, and site

superintendent service contracts. There is no single policy to govern on competitive contracts across the government. Individuals, businesses, and business associations have expressed a concern about the lack of a clear process for awarding these contracts. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

There are no preamble on written questions. Please state your written questions.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would ask the Premier to clarify the government's position on government-wide non-competitive contracts by providing a draft policy to this Standing Committees of this Assembly by August 15, 1997. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Written questions. Mr. O'Brien. Consideration in the committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill Nos. 10, 11,.. Mr. O'Brien I had wanted to recognize you before. Do you still wish to be recognized?

MR. O'BRIEN:

I was seeking unanimous consent to return to item 10, Petitions.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Kivallivik is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 10, Petitions. Do I have any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent. Mr. O'Brien.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have Petition No. 21-13(4) to save the Nunavut libraries. It is signed by approximately 44 residents of Arviat. The petition states "We ask you as our Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories to work to preserve the public library services which currently exist and to cancel the layoff notices which have been issued". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Petitions. Consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill Nos. 10 and 11... Put Mr. Ningark in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to call the committee to order. Under number 19, we have two items, Bill 10 Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 1996-97 and Bill 11. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Chairman, could I get the cooperation of my colleagues by dealing with Bill 10 and then Bill 11? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we have a concurrence that the committee move to deal with Bill 10 and Bill 11 in that order?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to remind Members that it is in your green binder under legislation. I recognize Mr. Todd to speak to this item. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very brief opening comment, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, request for authority for additional appropriations of \$11,666,234, made up from \$11,601,234 for operations and maintenance expenditures and \$66,000 for capital expenditures. The additional appropriations will not impact on the per capita deficit for 1996/97 as these appropriations are provided for in the 1996/97 supplementary appropriations reserve. The appropriations includes funding for Health and Social Services projected budget deficit deficiencies, increase costs of the water and sewer service subsidy, WCB premiums for the renewable resource harvesters and a few other minor items. There are also \$411,000 in appropriations which are fully offset by revenues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to call upon the chairman of the Finance Committee or his designate for the Standing Committee on Government Operations. WCB chairman, Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Report on Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 1996-1997. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations has completed the review of Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 1996/97. The authority of the Supplementary Appropriations to cover expenditures in the Department of Health and Social Services in the areas of difficulty continue to be those which have plagued the government in the past, medical travel, out-of-territory hospital costs, and physician services. We hope the health reform currently underway will address some of the areas of difficulty. There is no need for a similar supplementary appropriation in future years. There are also a number of funding transfers to support user-say/user-pay initiatives in community environment efforts. Some Members

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have concerns about the supplementary requests for additional funding for the water and sewage subsidy. The Minister has provided us the information on the reason for this request. There may be additional questions from the Members here today. The Standing Committee on Government Operations is satisfied that Bill 10 is ready for discussion for the committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. I would like to take this opportunity to offer Mr. Todd, if he so desires, to bring in the witnesses. Thank you. Do we have concurrence of the committee? Sergeant-At-Arms, seek the witnesses, please. Thank you. Mr. Minister, would you please introduce the witness to the committee.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. Such a familiar face, but I have forgotten his name. It is Mr. Lew Voytilla, dynamic Deputy Minister of FMBS.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Voytilla. I would like to open the floor to general comments. We are on page 5, dealing with Bill 10. We will deal with detail on page 5. General comments, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to make a general comment on the Appropriations Bill. Over the past 15 months these bills have come forward. One of the concerns that we had as a group of MLAs was there seems to be quite a few of them. I would like to commend the Minister and the departmental staff that these have slowed down to a trickle. I think it is better management on the financial side as demonstrated by the Department of Finance and the FMBS, Mr. Voytilla and Mr. Todd. Thank you, Mr. Ningark.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Further general comments. Detail. On page five, Executive, operations and maintenance, Cabinet Secretariat, not previously authorized, negative \$11,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page six, Executive, operations and maintenance, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$18,000. Human resource management, negative \$60,000. Agreed? Try again. Human resource management, not previously authorized, negative \$60,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed. Negative.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Negative. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Sorry. Government accounting, not previously authorized, \$300,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

This is different from what I am used to doing. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on the government accounting, \$300,000, I guess this is to provide additional funding for the required subsidies under the power subsidy program. The total expenditure for the power subsidy program will be recovered from dividends received by the NWT Power Corporation. Because of the 96/97 appropriation, would that \$300,000 be coming out of income generated from 96/97 or the revenues anticipated in the 97/98 budget of the Power Corporation dividend?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Voytilla advised me that we will get the dividends for this expenditure out of next year's proceeds.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Government accounting, not previously authorized, \$300,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On page seven, Executive, operations and maintenance, aboriginal affairs, not previously authorized, \$122,000. Total department, \$333,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page eight. Justice, operations and maintenance, directorate, not previously authorized, \$66,000. Do we agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, \$66,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On page nine, Safety and Public Services, operations and maintenance, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$12,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, negative \$12,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On page 10, Public Works and Services, operations and maintenance, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$212,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Asset management, not previously authorized, negative \$79,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, negative \$291,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 11, Transportation, operations and maintenance, corporate services, not previously authorized, negative \$140,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, negative \$140,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 12, Resources Wildlife and Economic Development (Renewable Resources), operations and maintenance, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$81,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Conservation education and resource, not previously authorized, \$942,234. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department \$861,234. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 13, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations and maintenance, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$62,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community development, not previously authorized, \$1,208,000. Agreed? Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question, I noticed a lot of these are transfers, even though they are negative to Keewatin and Fort Smith regions to the regional health boards. In all the department, only two health boards?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We will go back to directorate. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to say both these regions are forward thinking. They have agreed to take the responsibility for these fiscal arrangements and yes we have included it with them, that is why we need to transfer the dollars. In other regions, discussions are underway. We are confident the other regions will follow suit. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Municipal and Community Affairs, operations and maintenance, directorate not previously authorized, negative \$62,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community development, not previously authorized, \$1,208,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, \$1,146,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 14, Health and Social Services, operations and maintenance, directorate, not previously authorized, \$260,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community programs and services, not previously authorized, \$3,700,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Support and health services administration, not previously authorized, \$5,644,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, \$9,604,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 15, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources), operations and maintenance, energy, mines and petroleum resources, not previously authorized, negative \$2,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, negative \$2,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 16, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (Economic Development and Tourism), operations and maintenance, parks and visitor services, not previously authorized, \$55,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Finance and administration, negative \$64,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, negative \$9,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Page 17, Education, Culture and Employment, operations and maintenance, directorate and administration, not previously authorized, negative \$65,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Culture and careers, not previously authorized, \$119,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$54,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Culture and careers, not previously authorized, \$119,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total departments, not previously authorized, \$54,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Agreed. Page 18, Education, Culture and Employment, capital, culture and careers, not previously authorized, \$56,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$56,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Now on Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1996/98. Page 1, Bill 10. Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 4 of Bill 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Clause 5 of Bill 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Schedule, part 1, vote 2, capital, total capital, \$56,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Part 2, vote 1, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$11,610,234. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister give me a total number of the transfers for the regional health boards for that amount. I noticed it went throughout

the departments. What was the total amount of transfers?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I wonder if the Member could just clarify what he means by total number of transfers?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Roland, would you clarify your question please.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The total dollar value of the transfers when it comes to the regional health boards. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd, your microphone was not quite on yet when you replied. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Chairman, \$936,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Part 2, vote 1, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$11,610,234.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total supplementary of appropriations in part 1 and 2, \$11,666,234. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree that Bill 10 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill 10 is now ready for third reading. Thank you. As we are instructed by the committee, the next item to review is Bill 11, Loan Authorization Act to 1997/98. Is Mr. Todd ready to make an opening remark? Thank you.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Indeed, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of the Loan Authorization Act is to authorize the government to make loans to municipal corporations. It is a requirement of the Northwest Territories Act that Legislative Assembly authorizes any loans by the government. This Act is an annual Act which for '97/98 fiscal year will provide the authority to lend up to a maximum of \$6.5 million to municipal corporations. This amount represents an increase of \$2.8 million from the \$3.7 million authorized for 1996/97. The tax base for municipal corporations that have been identified are requirements for loans for Fort Simpson in the amount of \$150,000, Fort Smith in the amount of \$1.6 million, Inuvik in the amount of \$200,000, Iqaluit \$1.5 million. Those are the ones with tax-based municipalities. In addition, the number of non-tax based municipal corporations have identified amounts that will be required for land development. This land development is pursuant to the government's initiative to devolve ownership of land and responsibility for the land development. This is required to support the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and to empower communities to become financially self-supporting and sufficient. The communities are Arviat, \$269,000, Baker Lake at \$25,000, Broughton at \$157,000, Cape Dorset at \$31,000, Clyde River, \$110,000, Coral Harbour, \$84,000, Grise Fiord at \$88,000, Kimmirut at \$52,000, Pond Inlet, \$155,000, Rankin Inlet at \$1,758,000, Repulse at \$450,000, Resolute, \$95,000, Whale Cove, \$75,000. The total requirement is \$6,934,000, which has been rounded to \$6,500,000. Of this amount, \$3.5 million is for tax based

municipalities and \$2,944,000 is for non-tax based municipal corporations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. I will ask you to bring in the witnesses before we get into general comments.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I believe thank you means yes. Do we have the concurrence of the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Yes, we do have concurrence. Sergeant-at-Arms, seat the witness or witnesses please. Thank you. I did not get it but I am told the Minister has indicated he is willing to sit in the witness table without a witness. Are there general comments from the committee? No? Detail. We are dealing with Bill 11, Loan Authorization Act, 1997/98. Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 2?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 3 of Bill 11?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 7 of Bill 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill 11 as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 11 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill 11 is now ready for third reading. I would like to thank Mr. Todd. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that we have concluded the business for this session and that I thank everybody for their co-operation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 10 and 11 and would like to report that Bill 10 and 11 are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 8: Appropriation Act, 1997/98

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 8,

Appropriation Act, 1997/98, be read for the third time.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd, your motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 8 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 2: Justice Administration Statutes Amending Act

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that Bill 2, Justice Administration Statutes Amending Act be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 2 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Dent.

Bill 12: Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 12, an Act to amend the Student Financial Assistance Act be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 12 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

Bill 9: Forgiveness of Debts Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 9, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1996/97, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour?

All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 9 has had third reading of bills. Third reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 1996/97.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member is seeking consent to deal with Bill 10. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Todd, you have unanimous consent.

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 1996/97 be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 10 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 11, Loan Authorization Act, 1997/98. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Bill 11. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Todd, you have consent.

Bill 11: Loan Authorization Act 1997/98

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 11, Loan Authorization Act, 1997/98 be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 11 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to return to tabling of documents.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Baffin South is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 13, tabling of documents. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Arlooktoo, you have unanimous consent.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 69-13(4) Honouring Retirees

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document honouring three retirees who worked with the Department of Public Works and Services in Pangnirtung. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if Her Honour, the Commissioner, is prepared to enter the Chamber to assent to bills?

COMMISSIONER MAKSAGAK:

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, it gives me pleasure to assent to the following: Bill 2, Justice Administration Statutes, Amending Act; Bill 7, Municipal Statutes, Amending Act; Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1997-98; Bill 9, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1996-97; Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1996-97; Bill 11, Loan Authorization Act, 1997-98, and Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act. Thank you.

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-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Clerk. Orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, meetings at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning of the Management and Services Board, at 10:30 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Social Programs with all Members and at 1:30 p.m. of the Standing Committee on Government Operations.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, May 27, 1997:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Return 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 Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
- Motion 14-13(4)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Prior to adjournment of the House today until May, I would like on your behalf to express my appreciation to all the staff of the Clerk's office.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

From the Clerk to the receptionist as they all work very hard to provide professional services. A special mention goes to our interpreters and translators not only for their work today but for all the work they do to enhance our official languages.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Not to mention keeping up with us. I would like to offer my personal appreciation to my executive administrative assistant, Brian Armstrong, who will be moving from my office to work at elections NWT. His assistance I have appreciated over the last year. Our appreciation also goes to the senior officials of the government and their staff who worked to provide response to the numerous questions and issues that Members raise, also to the fifth estate, the people of the radio, television and print media as they strive to portray in such a good light.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Seriously, the media do play an important role as they professionally and accurately report the proceedings of the Assembly. I am sure all our families are excited that we will be finally coming home to stay for more than a couple of days. May you all have a safe journey home whether you are driving or flying and Happy Easter. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 27, 1997.

-- ADJOURNMENT