



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

4th Session

Day 37

13th Assembly

HANSARD

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Jim Antoine, Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, Mr. Barnabas, Honourable Charles Dent, Mr. Enuaraq, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, 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.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Welcome back to the continuation of the Fourth Session which, as you know, began on November 27, 1996. I would like, on your behalf, to offer best wishes for a quick recovery to the Speaker, the Honourable Sam Gargan. Speaker Gargan had to undergo some minor surgery, but he tells me he hopes to be back in this Chair by the end of this week.

As this is the first opportunity the Speaker would have had to bring to the Members' attention an incident that occurred on the last day we sat prior to the extended adjournment, I must inform you that Speaker Gargan was concerned with a breach of decorum and respect for this Chamber and towards certain Members of this Assembly. The Speaker has asked me, on his behalf, to voice his concern surrounding the throwing of buckets of paper from the Gallery onto the floor of the Chamber. Speaker Gargan appreciates that there is a tradition after a very long budget session for Members to express their pleasure at having the budget approved by throwing papers from their desks to the floor. The tradition, as we believe, includes the media tearing up their notes and throwing them back at the Members. The incident disturbed the Speaker as some Members were involved in emptying buckets of paper over the Gallery on top of the Minister of Finance and some other Members. The Speaker feels that the dignity of the House was not upheld and would request in the future that all Members be respectful in their actions and preserve the dignity of this Chamber.

In addition, I would like to inform you that, upon his return to the Chair, Speaker Gargan intends to provide the Members with a report on his visit to Cape Dorset earlier this year in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the making of the mace and the events he is sponsoring later this week.

I know that you my colleagues, will not give the Chair a difficult time over the next few days as I try to fill in for the Speaker.

-- Applause

Item 2, Ministers' statements, Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 75-13(4): Ministers Absent From the House

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the Members that the Honourable Don Morin will be absent from the House for the remainder of the week to attend the Western Premiers' Conference in Campbell River.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Kelvin Ng and the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi will be absent today and tomorrow. Mr. Ng is attending a meeting of the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board in Iqaluit and Mr. Kakfwi is attending the Sahtu Oil and Gas Stakeholders Conference in Norman Wells.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Minister's Statement 76-13(4): Reconvening of the Fourth Session

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to welcome all the Members back to this Legislative Chamber as we reconvene the Fourth Session of the Legislative Assembly.

While this is going to be a much shorter session compared to when we last sat in these chairs, our discussions over the next two weeks will leave a strong mark on the future of the North.

Over the next two weeks, and indeed the next 21 months, we will be examining legislation and activities that will indeed affect the lives of the people we serve. But while this is truly our mandate, we must also lay important groundwork for two new future governments. The Premier has reminded us many times about how much we have left to do in a relatively short period of time. As of today, we have only 675 days left in our mandate.

With time of the essence, we must continually challenge ourselves to look beyond the needs of a few, and focus on making the best decisions for all. That is not an easy thing to do. But no one ever said being a strong, effective leader was easy.

Mr. Speaker, over the next two weeks, we will be discussing and debating things that affect the economic future of the north. We will be looking at the realities and logistics involved with the dividing of a large territory such as ours. And we will be making decisions and setting directions on social programs

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and legislation - things that directly affect each and every one of our constituents. This is a huge responsibility, and one we cannot treat lightly, or take out of context.

The people of the north are looking to us to provide direction, to show leadership and to make the right decisions. In fact, they should expect nothing less. They do not expect their MLAs to spend hours debating how this government spends every dollar.

Certainly we should question, but we must also trust the people who work for this government to follow the directions we set, and we must make sure that what we are questioning is truly in the best interest of all people, not just the special interests of a few.

As MLAs, our job is to represent our constituents. But more importantly, we must remind ourselves that we work for every citizen of the Northwest Territories. Let us keep that perspective in the next two weeks, and indeed the next 21 months. Mr. Speaker, there is no question we face a heavy challenge as individuals in trying to balance the needs of today with planning for tomorrow. We must never lose sight of that and engage in debating small, short-term issues, and lose valuable time in facing the larger, long-term issues that affect the quality of life, and the future of the north.

I am proud to be sitting with you, my colleagues, as a Member of this Legislative Assembly. I am also proud our people believe we can show the leadership required to meet that challenge, and provide for a secure and healthy future.

But what I am even more proud of is the fact that I am a resident and citizen of the Northwest Territories. And it is that role which I believe will inspire me and everyone else in this House, to rise to that challenge, and do what is right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
(Translation ends)

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 322-13(4): Tribute to Polly Camsell

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, it is good to see everyone again. This afternoon I would like to pay tribute to a prominent and long-time resident of Hay River, who passed away last week. Polly Camsell was born on Herschel Island on April 22, 1911. Polly's father, Sam Carter, was a member of the famous lost patrol. Sam Carter's body was found four days before Polly was born. Polly was orphaned when her mother died in child birth. She spent the first eight years of her life on Herschel Island with her grandmother and brother Sam. When Polly's grandmother also passed away, Polly and her brother were sent to the St. Peter's Anglican Mission school in Hay River. Polly remained in Hay River where she met her husband, Harry Camsell, and together they had 11 children.

Polly and Harry Camsell were the kind of people who formed the very fabric of the community. In spite of the early personal losses and tragedies that Polly suffered, when some may have questioned why, or become bitter, her experiences in life made Polly undeniably one of the most beautiful people you could imagine. Her son, Terry Camsell, mentioned how people were attracted to his mother, and I know it was because of the love, kindness and gentleness that she radiated. She was not happy unless she was cooking, baking or taking care of someone.

The last time I visited her in the hospital before Christmas, she said she had to get home because they could not have Christmas dinner without her

plum pudding. Even when her health was failing, she only thought of her family and those around her. Polly Camsell has left this earth, but she has left behind a legacy that will live on through her children and grandchildren, and everyone that she touched with her sweet and gentle spirit. Polly had a strong faith, and there is a principle in the Bible that says that if you want to be great in God's kingdom, learn to be the servant of all. When the record is revealed and shows the things that were seen and all of the unseen deeds of kindness, her reward will indeed be great. My condolences today to the Camsell family as they gather in Hay River for the funeral, and I know it will be a celebration of a life that should be an example to all of us. Thank you.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. The Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 323-13(4): Gender Parity Public Vote Results

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a brief statement today on behalf of the Members of the Nunavut Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the people of Nunavut decided that they would not elect their representatives to the Nunavut Legislative Assembly in 1999 on the basis of one male and one female MLA in each constituency.

We in the Nunavut Caucus are pleased with the manner in which this issue has been decided and fully support the outcome of this democratic process. We feel that this vote accomplished its intended goals of bringing both sides of the issue to light and creating extensive public discussion.

Individually, we have our own personal opinions on this issue, but as the duly elected public representatives of the people of Nunavut, it was our collective position in Cambridge Bay and remains so today, that the principles of democracy must prevail in any decision to change the manner in which the people are governed.

Mr. Speaker, we are very fortunate in our part of the world and we should all be thankful for the opportunity

that we have in our society, an opportunity many do not, to hear the voice of the people.

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We recognize that the issue of gender parity has been an emotional one over the past few months and would like to urge the people of Nunavut to come together as we have in the past, to move forward toward 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Member for Baffin Central, Mr. Enuaraq.

Member's Statement 324-13(4): Pangnirtung School Fire

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, fellow Members. (Translation ends) A fire destroyed the Attagoyuk School in Pangnirtung. The government has responded and a new school will be built in the near future. We appreciate the efforts of the government to get a new building up and ready for our students as soon as possible. Unfortunately, we seem to share the fate of the community of Fort McPherson. Like Fort McPherson, the school had a large gymnasium. The community made good use of the gym. Under the capital standards of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, the new school is only going to have a small gymnasium. Even though it is not the community's fault that they lost the old gym, they will end up with a new building which has less gym space than they had a year ago. I hope that the community and government can work together and find an answer to this community concern. Mr. Speaker, later on today I will be asking the appropriate Minister about this concern. Thank you.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 325-13(4): Contested Thebacha Election

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have waited for about 18 or 19 months to rise and say this in this House. That it is a fact that the longest-running election in the Northwest Territories and the Thebacha riding in my opinion, with almost 100 per cent certainty is now over.

-- Applause

There has been an unequivocal judgement by the Supreme Court which will be tabled in this House later today. It is now time for us to move on and get on with the other issues at hand.

Out of this very trying experience though, some good things will result and one, in my opinion, is going to be the rewriting of the Election Act to deal with the issues of proxies and timely dispute resolution.

Unfortunately, as my colleague from Yellowknife North said, it does not apply to band elections.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward now to serving out the rest of my term without a huge cloud hanging over my head and the head of the riding of Thebacha and working with the rest of my colleagues to resolve the many issues ahead of us in the next 675 days. I would like to thank everybody for their support during this period of time. It was most appreciated. Thank you.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 326-13(4): Achievements of Young Yellowknifers

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize some very deserving young people from the city of Yellowknife who have represented themselves both nationally and internationally. The first one is a young man named Scott Robertson, a constituent of Yellowknife South who has received national recognition for his submissions to a national contest sponsored by the Brewers Association of Canada. The Brewers Association of Canada requested entries from youth on materials to promote responsible drinking. Scott produced three written submissions and won in the semi-finals. His work was submitted along with thousands of others from across Canada. The intent of this contest was to promote or

comment on responsible drinking and Scott has most certainly demonstrated his abilities to provide a winning perspective.

He considers young people drinking irresponsibly world-wide and hopes his message will help tone down the amount consumed by youth. Scott made the semi-finals and went to Ottawa in March along with three other finalists from other regions in Canada. Scott is currently enrolled in a nursing program at the University of Calgary and upon completion hopes to return to Yellowknife. It is very fulfilling to see members of our youth choose to take a proactive role in the area of responsible consumption of alcoholic beverages.

The second youth, Mr. Speaker, whom I believe should be recognized is Tara Hamer. Tara is presently enrolled in a Bachelor of Science and Math program in Nova Scotia. She was selected as a Team Canada Junior Curling member who recently competed in the World Junior Curling Games in Japan. Tara's team took second in the World Allstars as well as being named the 1997 Canadian Junior Representative at these games in Japan.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Henry. The Member for Yellowknife South is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays.

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Conclude your statement, Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Members, for giving me that latitude.

Last month, Mr. Speaker, Dean and Greg Robertson entered their pieces in an international competition where they competed against 700 other pieces. These young gentlemen placed well in their divisions, earning several awards for their work and bringing northern recognition to another well-deserving field. I ask my fellow Members to join with me in acknowledging the work and achievements of these very deserving young individuals from my community who rightfully deserve our praise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 327-13(4): Concerns With Student Employment

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is wonderful to be back again. First, Mr. Speaker, before I get into my statement I would like to offer my sincere apologies for having been coerced and having participated on a voluntary basis in breaking the decorum of this House by dumping a load of paper, by the way it was all torn up from the budget address, on the Minister of Finance and Members across the way. As well, my apologies to the Speaker and Members of this House, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have had an opportunity over the last several weeks to concentrate on a number of issues. Many of our concentrations have been on the constitution and division of the territories. These are important issues, but we cannot forget about the day-to-day issues, and one of those is the students of the Northwest Territories and summer employment for those students. These students are now all back in the territories from university and college and the students from high school will shortly be looking for work.

I talked about the student issue the first session I attended a year and a half ago, Mr. Speaker, and I had urged that we develop an employment program by this government for students. I want to compliment the Minister of Finance to this end. He has created a private sector employment incentive program and I think compliments should go to the Minister for that program.

However, my concern, Mr. Speaker, is with the territorial government. We do not seem to have a coordinated and concerted effort to address the student employment issue with this government. I came across recently a publication from the federal government called Broaden Your Horizons. It is the federal government's student's guide for applying for employment. It is a very handy little publication that outlines where to apply, questions and answers, guidelines and it has a sample application form.

Now, we do not have a publication of this nature in the territorial government and I think it would be well worthwhile. We should have had this by now, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Conclude your statement, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So my issue is with the fact that we do not have a publication of this nature which could provide a great guide for students of where to apply. Right now they have to walk from building to building to find out who to apply to for a summer job. We are investing millions of dollars into these children and students and we are not providing them with the summer work experience that they need. We are providing no guidelines and methodology by which to introduce them into the workforce.

Mr. Speaker, additionally, I have a concern about the hourly rate. The federal government has, in this publication, their hourly rates. For secondary school students in the Yukon and Northwest Territories it is the highest in Canada. It is \$7.61. For post-secondary students, it is graduated according to the years of university completed. It starts at \$8.45 and goes to a maximum of \$12.46. For a PhD student, the maximum is \$15.98.

Mr. Speaker, I know for a fact that some of our students that are hired are in the neighbourhood of \$19.00, and I have heard of a case of \$22.00 per hour. I have addressed this issue before and we need to address it. We need to put a regulated amount on it that we can follow up. The union for the territorial government has apparently not agreed to allow this, but I would request the territorial government re-address this question. Obviously, the federal government has been able to make arrangements with the Public Service Alliance of Canada to produce these and these wage rates. Mr. Speaker, I will be asking some questions later in this session during question period. Thank you, very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. I would like to remind all Members that this is the first time that we have gathered together for

the session and I know most Members are anxious to get up and make Members' statements. I would remind the Members to be conscientious of the time allotted for your Member's statement in order to allow other Members to speak. Thank you. I have the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko. Thank you.

Member's Statement 328-13(4): Water Quality in Fort McPherson

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In opening, I would like to wish my mom a very happy birthday today and I wish her many more.

-- Applause

Thank you. My statement today is with regard to the problem

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that arose over a year ago which I brought to the attention of this House. It is with regard to Fort McPherson and the trouble it has had with the quality of its water and exactly where the source of the water is. Mr. Speaker, the residents of Fort McPherson have been battling with the problem of poor quality water. The water is presently pumped from a lake and has a very high iron and magnesium content. It smells and tastes bad and has even caused laundry damage for the residents of Fort McPherson.

Recently, the community wrote to the Minister suggesting that the water be piped from another source, Stony Creek. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister a question on this matter about what has been done to date. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 329-13(4): Tour of NORAD Site in Colorado

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to welcome my colleagues back to another busy session here in the House. I hope everyone is well relaxed and in a cooperative mood. During the opening day, I would also like to thank the staff of the Department of

National Defence for the opportunity to visit the NORAD site in Colorado. The tour was very interesting and showed what our federal government and the American government have worked on over the years to ensure North America's safety. It also shows the spirit of cooperation and partnership that has developed between our governments.

As well as showing the importance of establishing rangers throughout the north as well as other areas across our great nation, I felt it was very informative and well worth touring and I would encourage my colleagues who did not go to visit this impressive site. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Rabesca. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Picco. Thank you.

Member's Statement 330-13(4): Creation of Nunavut

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the vote yesterday is another step on the road towards the creation of Nunavut. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who exercised their democratic right and voted. We will have to now move on to the larger issues of division. The delay in the appointment of the interim commissioner and now the federal election will, and has, slowed down the Nunavut creation process. It means that all parties, the NTI, the GNWT, the federal government and the interim commissioner, will have to roll up their sleeves to make sure that division occurs on time and with the proper logistics in place to make it a success.

Some of the other Legislative Assemblies of the GNWT were accused of paying lip service to the implementation of the Nunavut final agreement. I think that our lead Ministers like Deputy Premier Goo Arlooktoo, have shown that this government is committed to the process for the creation of both new territories. Mr. Speaker, Article 23 and Article 24 of the Nunavut final agreement are two of the principle clauses that will help the Nunavut government achieve parity within a public government that will reflect the Nunavut population and I support that. We will have to have separate formula financing agreements in place. It is imperative that the gross expenditure base for both new territories is equitable and sustaining. Several pieces of the neighbouring

legislation have to be passed as well as amendments to the Nunavut Act. Later today, I will be asking the Minister of Finance about the funding arrangements for both new territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 331-13(4): Tragic Accident in Arviat

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on a sad note. Two weeks ago my home community of Arviat suffered a terrible tragedy. A three-year-old child came in contact with a team of dogs and was severely mauled and died from her injuries. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my fellow colleagues join me in offering our sincere condolences to my friend Dennis Okatsiak, his wife and family for the loss of their precious Panik. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Erasmus. Thank you.

Member's Statement 332-13(4): Impact of Division

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to welcome everyone back to the fair city of Yellowknife. Also, I would like to welcome the Pages who are from Iqaluit. Welcome to Yellowknife. I hope you have a good time. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement today is on division. This government has finished a second year of the deficit reduction plan. This means that most communities can breathe a sigh of relief as they will have no more reductions.

With division some Nunavut communities may even look forward to growth. Unfortunately, Yellowknife is not in this enviable position. When division hits there will be smaller government in the west. Programs and services in communities will not be reduced. However, headquarters functions will naturally be reduced as there will be less volume of users. In other words, division is going to mean a slightly smaller

headquarters staff in Yellowknife. For some displaced employees there will be opportunities to join Nunavut government and move to Iqaluit perhaps. Others may not be able to move for family or other personal reasons. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the impact of division on Yellowknife residents. No matter what we call it, division will

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mean that some staff will not have jobs after April 1, 1999. We have talked about how we need stability. As much as possible, we have to give headquarters staff that same stability. As the government develops its pre-division plans, I will be closely watching to ensure the impact on active staff is minimized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement 333-13(4): Education Board Funding

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues. Mr. Speaker, we have had an opportunity to go back to our homes in the last couple weeks. Hopefully, we have spent some time with the people in our communities. It gives us a chance to reflect on what we have done as a government, where we are headed and hear the concerns of the communities. Mr. Speaker, in the past we have talked about information and information flow and how it affects the communities and the time they get their information. It is difficult when we as a government set direction and it is unclear to the people in the communities actually where we are wanting to go. It is even more difficult for myself as a MLA to find out information in the community from the departments when they are saying that the information they have is confidential and they cannot share that information with me. At the same time, when I ask questions in committees, I am told they are under development. We do not have all the answers yet. It leaves me out in the cold wondering how I can try and help the community or get information.

Right now, Mr Speaker, there are rumours starting up on the amount of further reduction we are going to have within education. What I would like to do is get

information from the Ministers and the Minister responsible from this government as to what is happening in the area of funding for education boards. As we prepare for summer and students get out of school, there needs to be rebudgeting and preparing for the next year. We talk about how education is important for the people and youth of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will still be able to provide education and a quality education to the youth of the NWT. Thank you.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 334-13(4): Visits to Nahendeh Communities

HON. JAMES ANTOINE:

Mahsi. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will speak in my language. I am glad that we have gathered here to meet for another two weeks. So, I am glad to see you. During our break, I was able to go home to my community. Recently, we had an ice breakup in Fort Simpson and when this happens there is usually a lot of commotion. This year there was a lot of water and in places like Jean Marie River, there was a lot of commotion for the few days that there was a breakup. They were scared that it might flood, but that did not happen so I am thankful for that. Recently, when I was in my constituency, and when I arrived in Fort Liard, I was glad that the leaves had come out. It is not like around here -- when the leaves come out in Fort Liard and birds are out and the people are out visiting, I am glad that I went to visit them.

Today is another new day. I am glad that there are a lot of new items that people are working on in the community and us too at the Legislative Assembly. I suppose that we would like to be out in the good weather, but during the duration of the meeting it would be good if we worked well together. Thank you.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Pat Thomas of the NWTTA and wish them all the luck in their struggles. It has been tough. Good luck.

-- Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today it gives me great pleasure to welcome Allan and Eliza Kingdon, also known as Mr. and Mrs. Canada, from Iqaluit. Eliza is here this week helping me with the seven Pages from Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Billy Merkosak from Pond Inlet. Thank you.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 467-13(4): Pangnirtung School Gymnasium

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During Members' statements I made a statement about the school in Pangnirtung that will be built. The gymnasium is too small. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment what he has done up-to-date about the size of the gymnasium. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation

ends)

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 467-13(4): Pangnirtung School Gymnasium

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, according to departmental standards for schools built to hold up to 396 students, the gymnasium size is set at 396 square metres. The standards are such that we cannot afford to increase the size of gyms throughout the Northwest Territories. I know that there has been considerable pressure on me by the Member for Mackenzie Delta. I have been unable to accommodate him. So I am sure that the Member will understand that we have to be equitable to all communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, the honourable Member for Baffin Central, Mr. Enuaraq.

Supplementary To Question 467-13(4): Pangnirtung School Gymnasium

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Community Education Council in Pangnirtung were told that the gymnasium in the new school, if they have to extend the gymnasium, the Community Education Council has to provide \$250,000. They are not able to provide this money, and I feel that the GNWT should help the community extend the gymnasium. The school that burned down had a bigger gymnasium and I wonder if the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment can look into this further to see if the gymnasium could be extended? Thank you. (Translation ends)

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The honourable Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 467-13(4): Pangnirtung School Gymnasium

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department is prepared to work with the community as we have with other communities to see if there are projects that are slated for the community, such as through the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs that the community would wish to trade to provide a larger gym. The department does not have funds available to augment the size of gyms in communities and all new schools are built to the same standards across the Northwest Territories. I cannot offer the Member any assurance we would be able to find any extra funding to build a larger gymnasium in the community than what the standards call for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Oral questions. I have the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 468-13(4): Water Quality in Fort McPherson

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to be addressed by the Minister of MACA, the Honourable Manito Thompson. Mr. Speaker, in my statement I noted that for quite some time, Mr. Speaker, the residents of Fort McPherson have been battling the problem of poor water quality. The water piped into the community from a lake has a very high iron and magnesium content. It smells and tastes bad and has even caused some damage. Recently, a community wrote to the Minister and suggested that the water be pumped from another source, Stony Creek. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not she has had the opportunity to review the option and what has she done with it and how soon can she get back to me on this?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. I believe there were two questions. The Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs, the honourable Manito Thompson.

Return To Question 468-13(4): Water Quality in Fort McPherson

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quite aware of the water problem in Fort McPherson. It seems to happen every spring, which is the smell of the water changes

with the spring water and the Deputy Minister of MACA met with the mayor in Rankin Inlet just this month. I have not had a full briefing yet on this issue, so I am inviting the MLA and also the mayor to have a full briefing with my staff and probably Public Works because there has been quite a bit of consultation done with the community. With my busy schedule and other things, I have not had a full briefing on this so I am just inviting the MLA and also the mayor to meet with me and we will get a full briefing on it at the same time. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 468-13(4): Water Quality in Fort McPherson

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister in regards to the meeting is, I suggest we have the meeting sooner rather than later while we are all here. I would like to recommend it, if possible, that you get back to me as soon as possible so we can make the arrangement for the appropriate time for that meeting. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madame Thompson.

Further Return To Question 468-13(4): Water Quality in Fort McPherson

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand there is a meeting that will be happening on June 2nd with David, the MLA, David Krutko, to discuss the water problem in his community and I understand that officials from my department and also Public Works will be there at that time. That is the soonest we can make it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Picco.

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Question 469-13(4): Update on Formula Financing

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Members' statement I spoke about division and the role that we are in. My questions are on the division issue and they are to the chair of the Division Committee, Mr. Todd. Can Mr. Todd update this house on the current status of the formula financing for both new territories that will be taking place in meetings and negotiations today?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The chairman of the Financial Management Board, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 469-13(4): Update on Formula Financing

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can update my honourable colleague from the future capital of Nunavut, Iqaluit, on the formula financing arrangements as it relates to division. The political committee, made up of NTI, interim commissioner, the Western Coalition and ourselves, met early last month to try to reach a common position on how we would move forward with respect to the two new formulas that are necessary in the creation of two new governments on April 1, 1999. I think it would be fair to characterize those meetings as cooperative and the overall objective is the same for all parties, that is we want to ensure there is adequate funding in place to maintain the level of services that we currently have and hopefully onward into the future in the 21st century.

Each of these entities have an official that is a working official that will be part of the formula financing discussions with the federal government, who will call the meeting. The first official meeting is planned this Friday, I believe, and what will hopefully unfold there is we will be able to determine some time-lines because that is important. The criteria I suggest for what kind of formulas we want because there are a number of options out there, particularly in the new territory of Nunavut and how we are going to proceed with respect to the argument, if you want, as to how we quantify the kinds of dollars that we are going to require to meet the demands that are being placed upon us by our appropriate jurisdictions. I think I would probably be in a better position earlier next week to advise my colleague as to any further developments as it relates to these two new formulas,

at the officials level, Tuesday or Wednesday. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 469-13(4): Update on Formula Financing

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that people in the Northwest Territories are sleeping well tonight knowing that Mr. Todd is taking care of this for us. My supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, is concerning the model that we are using for Nunavut. Is the formula financing or the costing for both new territories, is it based on the status quo for the western Arctic at the present time, or is it based on the decentralized model or the NIC model for Nunavut?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister for Finance, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 469-13(4): Update on Formula Financing

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I see my colleague must have an audience again today because he needs to perform, which is not out of character for him. I want to assure him that right now, this government is proceeding in an orderly way to determine the appropriate cost to the Footprints in the Snow 2 model and we are also, at the same time, costing the western government as it now exists and hopefully, in the not too distant future, we will be in a position to identify what we think these two new governments will cost, more importantly, what we think the incremental side of it will be in Nunavut with a decentralized government. We can, through the coalition that we have of collective concern, move forward to the federal government and see if they are going to pay the bill. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Second supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 469-13(4): Update on Formula Financing

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the formula financing arrangement for both new territories, of course, is crucial here. Because we want to know exactly what funds we will have available on April 1, 1999. My supplementary question to the Minister of Finance and also chair of the Division Committee is, basically, has he been in contact with Paul Martin, who is the Minister of Finance, or is he dealing with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs? What lead government department on the federal side is now involved in the formula financing arrangements for the new territories, both the east and the west?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 469-13(4): Update on Formula Financing

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said consistently to everybody in the House, to my colleague in committee, to him privately on a number of occasions, that I have had discussions with Mr. Martin as late as January 9th with respect to how we are going to proceed forward in an orderly way to determine the appropriate funding that is required for both new territories. We are, may I remind him, in the federal election right now and it is very difficult to get everybody's attention. Hopefully, we will get it after June the 2nd and assuming that the current government will be in place, then we will be able to move onward with our agenda, both in terms of the political agenda in trying to convince the politicians what the requirement is and the technical exercise that is necessary to demonstrate need. That is what we are doing, Mr. Speaker, and I will continue to keep the House

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involved, in particular, my honourable colleague involved as to how those negotiations proceed. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 469-13(4): Update on Formula Financing

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Todd tells me so many different things, it is hard for me to know and remember which month he spoke to Mr. Martin last. So he has confirmed that it was five months ago. My concern, being from Iqaluit, which is the capital of Nunavut, is exactly what the gross expenditure base will be. I wonder if Mr. Todd or any of his department of officials have any idea at this present time what numbers we are looking at for the costing exercise, or a ball park figure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister Todd.

Further Return To Question 469-13(4): Update on Formula Financing

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I missed something this week? We just spent four days in caucus giving everybody a complete detailed breakdown of the cost of division and the strategy to determine what the appropriate costs are. I understand Mr. Picco was at those meetings. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that while it is nice to get pressed, but I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Picco and others are well aware of the exercise that is currently under-way by this government and all the parties associated with it. When we get to the final conclusion of what we think the costs are, we need to ensure that our partners in this exercise are with us. NTI, the new interim commissioner, Mr. Anawak, the Western Coalition led by Mr. Floyd Roland, when we do that, and when we accomplish that we will then move forward in an orderly, constructive, well documented way to seek federal approval for the appropriate levels of funding that is required to ensure that the adequate services and delivery of services for the people of Nunavut and in the western Arctic. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. That was in response to the final supplementary of the honourable Member for Iqaluit. I have the honourable Member for Kivallivik, Mr. O'Brien.

Question 470-13(4): Dog Bylaws in NWT Communities

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for MACA. Mr. Speaker, earlier in my statement I spoke about the death of a three-year-old child in Arviat after being mauled by a dog team. Mr. Speaker, in this situation the proximity of the dog team did conform with the bylaw. My question to the Minister is, will the Minister contact all the hamlets in the NWT to ensure that their bylaw is reasonable and safe so that we can prevent this sort of situation from ever happening again? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs, Madame Thompson.

Return To Question 470-13(4): Dog Bylaws in NWT Communities

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say that I will get my department to review the bylaw issue and I will get back to the Member on the process. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. I have the honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Roland.

Question 471-13(4): Level of Education Board Funding

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister responsible for Education. Can the Minister inform this House as to what level of funding the education boards will be receiving this upcoming year? I know there is some difficulty in getting information from previous years and preparing that information, but we are well into the ending of another school year and preparing for a future year coming up. I would like to know if the Minister has available and will make available to the Members of this House, the funding levels going out to the education boards? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 471-13(4): Level of Education Board Funding

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the 1997/98 academic year, the budget for school contributions is about \$139 million or approximately half of this department's total budget. We are working with our partners in education across the Northwest Territories, the divisional education councils, to determine an appropriate funding formula for all divisional education councils and district education authorities. Part of the problem we have with determining the formula is the total amount of money is not growing each year - in other words our business plan has had to include virtually the same amount of money for the three years reflected in the business plan.

The formula has to reflect what the actual enrolment is next year because that \$139 million has to suffice no matter what the school population is in each of the divisional education councils come September, 1997. As recently as March of this year representatives from the divisional education councils have come to work with representatives from the department to discuss changes to the formula. All of the boards, as we used to call them, or divisional education councils have a pretty good idea as to what they are going to see next year. The final number has to reflect somewhat the growth in school populations.

There have been some recommended changes from this working group which last met in March that we are going to implement for 97/98 and I would expect the figures should be

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relatively firm within the next couple of weeks. As I have said, most of the boards have a pretty good idea of what they will receive this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 471-13(4): Level of Education Board Funding

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have mentioned earlier that information flow seems to be a

difficult one when it is not clear exactly what is happening and rumours start spreading quite rapidly as to what kind of reductions there are going to be, or if we are losing more teachers. Knowing the funding is staying at the same amount, I guess my question would be if the funding amount is not changing, although the student enrolment might be increasing, why would we then be losing any teachers? I guess my question would be in this reworking of the formula has it been taking away from funding of four teachers and putting it in something else? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 471-13(4): Level of Education Board Funding

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One thing that is important to make clear is that the funding that this government provides to divisional education councils is, in effect, block funding. The formula allocation says that a certain amount is for transportation, a certain amount is for special needs students. The boards themselves have the opportunity to move those monies around as best suits their needs, so they are not tied to whatever the formula says. They can change the pupil/ teacher ratio to put money into transportation, for instance, if they chose to do that. So, the boards themselves get to determine how the monies are allocated.

The funding formula is only how we as a department come up with the allocations for the boards. Why would that affect the numbers of teachers? In some regions, the population is not growing as quickly as it is in others. So, some boards will see an increase in the amount of funding they receive, others will see a decrease because the numbers of students also play a part in the formula. A region, for instance, that is seeing an effective growth in enrolment of eight percent, may in fact see more dollars next year, whereas a region which is only seeing growth of one percent or two percent may see a reduction in dollars. So those two factors have to be taken into account when considering why there may be a reduction in the numbers of teachers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 471-13(4): Level of Education Board Funding

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the formula funding, the boards can make their own decisions as to how much money they will put towards teachers, and they can change that. That is good to hear. Also, the Minister made mention that enrolment of students has an impact as to how much funding is allocated to the boards. I need more clarification. The Minister said that even though a particular school board may have growth of four percent from the previous year, but they in fact may be losing some money to an education board that would have growth of eight percent. Even though you are growing in your student population, you will be losing funding. Is that what the Minister is saying? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 471-13(4): Level of Education Board Funding

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the formula contains a number of items and I want to be careful about giving Members the impression that it could be figured out this simply. If for example we have 17,000 students in the school system this year and there are 18,000 students next year and we have \$139 million both years to provide to the schools to deliver education services, that means that the per student funding that goes to each board has to be reduced. So a board that has a rapidly increasing number of students may see some increase in their funding because the funding would shift on a per student basis. So, yes - there is a chance that boards, even with a small increase in student population, will see a decrease in the amount of funding that goes to them depending on how the final calculations work in the formula.

I should also let the House know that last year the formula was not finalized until early July. That is the time at which all the boards got letters advising them precisely what their funding would be for the 96/97 school year. We will follow that same time table this year. We expect to be able to finalize the formula earlier in July and all boards will be notified in writing in early July what the final number will be. The boards know right now approximately what they can expect. It is just that the formula has to be fine tuned in order to

come up with the actual dollars and cents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary. Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 471-13(4): Level of Education Board Funding

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he would make available to this House and Members in this House, when the numbers are finalized, the amounts that the school boards will be receiving and who received increases and who received decreases. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 471-13(4): Level of Education Board Funding

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HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be pleased to provide copies to the Members of the letters sent to the Divisional Education Councils and the Divisional Education Authorities in their regions. I think that the comparative amounts should be fairly easy to provide as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. I have the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

Question 472-13(4): Student Employment Program

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my opening statement I made reference to the Student Employment Program that I am very concerned about. I complimented the Minister of Education for providing the private sector Student Employment Incentive Program which I think is very good. My area of concern lies with what the territorial government is doing in order to enhance student employment and make it easier for students to seek positions. My question is for the Minister of the Financial Management Board. As I mentioned, I found this

publication called Broaden Your Horizons. It is a student guide to apply for employment with the federal government throughout Canada. It is an easy format to follow for students and it simplifies where to apply.

In our particular case in the territorial government, students have to, in Yellowknife here, and I am sure it is in some of the regional centres the same thing, run from building to building and department to department filling out application forms. If I want to get answers as to how many students have applied, I understand that I have to ask each particular Minister for that.

Two concerns; I want to know whether the territorial government has worked on producing anything that makes it easy for students to apply such as this particular publication. Then I would like to address the whole question of student employment rates. As I mentioned in my opening comments, there are rates set by the federal government. They range from \$7.61 up to \$15 for a PhD student. So, I would like to address those particular areas.

My first question for the Minister is have they worked on a program, not the private sector one which I compliment the government for on the territorial government employment for students, has the government worked on some program to make it easier for students to apply? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Between the question and response, we will pause momentarily in order to recognize the interpretation that we have which is a vital part of this operation. Thank you. It is a very difficult question to point out to a certain Minister. It seems to be part of the Premier's office, Personnel Secretariat or FMB. So, Mr. Todd, would you endeavour to answer the question?

Return To Question 472-13(4): Student Employment Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. Let me go back to what our original position was over a year ago. That is when we were in negotiations with the union, we asked them to consider a student rate rather than the conventional rates that are currently in our collective agreement. For one reason or another we did not get an agreement. I am not placing any blame, but we did

not get one. The intent at that time was to try to find a reasonable level of what you might call student compensation so that we can hire and recruit more students given the fiscal limitations that we were under. That was our original intent. That did not work.

At the end of the current situation with respect to students not under the new initiative that was announced and that we are going to reannounce tomorrow, under the current situation there is a very limited number of dollars available for student recruitment. There is certainly less money available than there was in the past. Now part of our accountability strategy and responsibility strategy is to put the onus and responsibility, on the Ministers and the deputy ministers and on the individual departments. We are trying to decentralize authority because we fundamentally believe that we will get people more accountable and get better utilization of the dollars. So the process right now and Mr. Ootes is correct, there is no centralized clearing house for student employment. Each department has its own budget, each department recruits its own students and that is the process we have in place right now. I hope that answers my colleague's question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 472-13(4): Student Employment Program

MR. OOTES:

Yes thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think your own concern about who to address the question to illustrates the problem for students as well. The fact that there are less dollars, I recognize. I am well aware and of course, have been supportive of the program of deficit reduction and so forth. I appreciate we cannot hire as many students as usual. But it still leaves the whole problem of where do students apply? They need a more streamlined process. After all, Mr. Speaker, we are spending millions of dollars investing in the educational level of these students. I think it is time for us to address this particular problem. As the Minister has also referenced, it is difficult for people to apply.

I think it is time for the government to address this particular problem and perhaps take as an example this publication. I wonder if the Minister will undertake to look at this specific problem for students so we get a more streamlined process in that end. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 472-13(4): Student Employment Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I would be the first to admit that perhaps the system may appear on the surface to be a bit cumbersome, but I am telling you right now that the fact of the matter is, the expectation out there for students has been reduced because we do not have

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the fiscal resources. I do not want to get back into that story, but that is the reality. One of the reasons that we announced early the new initiative is because we have tried to find a way in which to lever our dollars to get more students to work. That is really what we are trying to do here. Now, I will examine the concern raised by Mr. Ootes. It could very well be a legitimate one. I will assume it is at this point in time, and see if there is some way in which we can provide students with the form of information that he has from the federal government.

What we will not examine though, in fairness to him, I am not prepared to look at a centralized model at this time because accountability and responsibility has been placed on the Ministers and placed on the deputy ministers et cetera. That is all the way through our program since we started. I will try to find a way to examine how we can provide the necessary information for the students but if we are heading towards whether we are going to have a centralized kind of clearing house, at this time I do not think it would be fair to give any indication to Mr. Ootes that we would be prepared to do that. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Second supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 472-13(4): Student Employment Program

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand there are no publications or any kind of literature available for students and I think this sort of thing would be helpful.

My other concern is the wage rates. I appreciate that it has been addressed with the Union of Northern Workers but I am wondering if it can be re-addressed. The reason I say this is because the federal government has obviously arranged this with the Public Service Alliance. There are 200,000 civil servants with the federal government and they have been able to make arrangements. I am wondering if this can be re-addressed. As you know, we want to maximize the employment of students and I think it is highly unfair for some student to make \$22.00 an hour. I believe that is highly unfair because, according to these rates, no other students in Canada get that.

My question to the Minister is, will he look at this with the specific purpose of having a wage rate so that we can employ more students? Has he an opportunity to be able to re-address this with the Union of Northern Workers? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 472-13(4): Student Employment Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, this question has been raised on a number of occasions by my honourable colleague, but the fact of the matter is, we have signed a legal collective agreement with our colleagues in the union which commits us to certain wage rates for certain jobs for certain periods of time. I would be prepared, if I was given direction, to perhaps communicate with the union to see if they would consider it. But they have got an obligation and responsibility to the membership. I cannot speak for them, Mr. MacDonald and others are around and I am sure they can talk to you directly, but I do not think there is room right now considering that we have signed off an agreement which was difficult enough to get. Let us be candid, it was a tough time, the last little while.

We did indicate on the front end that we would have preferred to try to get a student rate, to ensure more students would be recruited because we knew the fiscal position we would be in. For one reason or another, and I am not making any judgement on it, we could not accomplish that in the bargaining process. I will talk to my department and see if they are prepared to communicate with the president and see if they wish to re-examine it. To be candid, I very

much doubt it at this time, hence the reason we brought in the private sector initiative for the recruitment of students that Mr. Dent announced earlier this year. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 472-13(4): Student Employment Program

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could undertake, since it is difficult for me to be able to contact each particular department to get statistics back, to get an answer from each department the number of students that they have hired through the year and perhaps, if possible the wage rights and combine that with what the success of the program has been for the private sector program. I appreciate what he is saying, and hopefully, the private sector program has generated more student employment to balance off what we could not do in the territorial government. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. I would like to remind all Members when asking questions, the initial question allows for the preamble and supplementaries are there to seek clarification from the Minister on the questions. In some cases, we have had a number of Members asking more than one question at the same time. Those kinds of questions could be asked in terms of written questions. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 472-13(4): Student Employment Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be prepared to ask the departments if they can identify and provide me with a complete data list of how many students they are prepared to recruit this year based on the fiscal dollars they have available. I can tell you, unequivocally, that we are not in the same position we were over a year ago. There is, unfortunately, less opportunity hence the reason why we came forward with what we believe is a creative way to lever both private sector and government dollars to bring about new opportunities for our students. But I would certainly be prepared to coordinate and seek input from the departments as to how many students they

intend to hire within the fiscal frameworks and we have set targets with respect to our budgets. Thank you.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Henry. Thank you.

Question 473-13(4): Formula Financing Negotiations

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance responsible for the Division Secretariat. I think it is fair to say that there has been some confusion and misunderstanding regarding formula financing for the two new territories. I wonder if the Minister could make it clear as to what the government and the Western Coalition and the interim commissioner will be negotiating as far as formula financing agreements for the two new territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 473-13(4): Formula Financing Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let us make it clear, there should be no confusion as it relates to this government's position as we move forward to negotiate the formula arrangements. We see clearly that there is a requirement for two new formula gross expenditure bases for both the western government and the eastern government. It is clear with respect to the federal government's position as it relates to Footprints in the Snow 2, they have indicated support for it, both through the Minister of DIAND and the Minister of Finance. This government's position is also to support the Footprints in the Snow 2 report, along with NTI. Therefore, we are currently costing, in an orderly way, that blueprint and model that is in place. In that costing, we will identify the incremental side of it. With respect to the western government, we are costing right now the government that is in place. Once we have that costing in place, with our partners in the process we will then move forward to the federal government and see if they are prepared to pay the price.

I have to remind everybody, especially the audience out there, that the fact of the matter is, the current levels of funding that we receive from the federal government is somewhere between 76 to 80 percent of the monies we receive. Our capacity to generate revenues is very limited. We are somewhere in the region of 20 to 24 percent capacity to generate revenues. When you look at two new territories, the capacity to generate revenues, the requirement for the gross expenditure base, will change significantly, hence the reason for what I have been saying for weeks. There is clearly a requirement to identify two new formulas, with two new expenditure bases, based upon two models. The models are Footprints in the Snow 2 and the western government as we currently see it. We then move that forward with our partners to the federal government and ask are you going to pay the bill? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 473-13(4): Formula Financing Negotiations

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have heard the Minister break that down very well. I was wondering if he would also confirm to me or reject, has the federal government bought into the process that the GNWT will be negotiating two separate formula financing agreements? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 473-13(4): Formula Financing Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

The reality, Mr. Speaker, is that I did speak to Mr. Martin in January about this whole issue. At that time, I did not get clarity as to what his political position would be in relationship to ours, and that it is the negotiation of two new formulas. I believe we have a common bond and understanding by all northern representatives. I think it would be fair to say that, without contradiction, the Western Coalition, NTI and the interim Commissioner have agreed that this is a logical approach to seeking the kinds of dollars required for the two new governments. I think it will become clearer after the officials meeting that it is

going to be undertaken this Friday, I believe, as to whether the federal government is going to be receptive to that position.

I personally, as the Finance Minister, cannot see doing it any other way. If we do it any other way, we are going to get into convoluted political arguing about taking from Peter to give to Paul and from Paul to give to Peter. It does not make any sense to me to take that approach. We must cost the funding required for two new governments. We have got to have a strong, credible argument as to why there is a requirement for it. We have to recognize, not just in this Legislature, but out there, that we are extremely vulnerable in our ability to generate revenues. There is no point in hiding that. Our capacity to do that is very limited. Therefore, we require a sympathetic federal government. That is what I believe we have. I believe that a constructive, well laid out argument will hopefully be able to get the levels of funding necessary, so that as Mr. Morin has said frequently April 1, 1999 can be a reason to celebrate. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary 473-13(4): Formula Financing Negotiations

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has told us that the officials will be meeting on Friday, and potentially, some clarity should come from that meeting regarding the federal government's position on whether they are prepared to negotiate two formula financing agreements. I concur with the Minister that I believe that is probably the most straightforward approach. I was wondering if the Minister could give us some indication as to when he will have an opportunity to meet with the next Minister of Finance to bring some clarity to this issue because I believe it is extremely important that we get that nailed down, that we get some concurrence from the federal government that, indeed, yes there are two separate entities

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and yes, we will be negotiating two separate formula financing agreements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 473-13(4): Formula Financing Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, let me say at the outset, Mr. Speaker, that I do recognize and appreciate my colleague's questions. I recognize the unease that is out there, particularly when you consider some of the difficult decisions we have had to make in the last 18 months. It is a difficult time. People are a little bit uneasy, whether you are living in Yellowknife or Grise Fiord. There is the same unease out there. We need to bring some stability to this issue, some confidence to the issue, some equity and fairness to the way we approach it. That is what we are trying to accomplish here. Contrary to some out there, that is what we are trying to accomplish. Fairness, equity, calm, orderly, this is the way in which we have to approach this formula arrangement.

I am not sure when we will get the kind of clarity necessary to be clear to my colleague about whether the federal government is prepared to accept the principles about how we would like to approach formula financing. Certainly, from a northern perspective, I will repeat that there is a common understanding that it is the approach we should take. I appreciate my colleague saying he concurs with that. As soon as we get some clarity on the federal government side, I will advise this House and committees. In the meantime, we know there is an election which closes on June 2nd. I cannot predict how that election is going to unfold. I will tell you that the Cabinet is preparing a 30, 60 and 90 day strategy as it relates to our relationship with the new federal government, whoever they may be. The priority in terms of the strategy is the two new formulas necessary to bring this whole division issue to rest and to get some clarity, as I said earlier, on the approach we wish to take with respect to fairness, equity and the fact that we are going to divide the territories, and have two new formulas, not one divided up. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Question 474-13(4): Tender Opening in Baker Lake

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for DPW. Mr. Speaker, recently the tenders were opened for the school

extension in Baker Lake. Can the Minister advise me as to what the status of this opening was? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 474-13(4): Tender Opening in Baker Lake

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been informed that the tenders closed and were open this past Friday. There was one bidder and the proposal is being reviewed at this time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 475-13(4): 1996 Housing Needs Survey

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the last sitting of the session, the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation said he was going to table the 1996 Housing Needs Survey in this sitting of the Fourth Session. I would like to know if the honourable Minister still plans to table the report. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 475-13(4): 1996 Housing Needs Survey

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, the needs survey was completed late this winter. The first of three reports has been completed, and I will be sharing the results of that report with Cabinet this week. I will table it in the House in the middle of next week at the latest.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 26-13(4): Funding For Construction of Educational Facilities

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Funding For Construction of Educational Facilities

1. Will the Minister provide this House with a list of all community learning centres and schools built in the last four years, where any part of the funding to construct the facility came from outside the Department of Education, Culture and Employment?

2. Will the Minister identify the amounts of those outside contributions? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, a provisional return to Written Question 16-13(4), asked by Mr. Erasmus, to the Chairman of the Financial Management Board, concerning staff training participation levels.

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Staff Training Participation Levels

Further to the return to Written Question given on March 5, 1997, this is to advise that additional time is required to compile a full response to Mr. Erasmus' question.

Information must be gathered from all departments of the Government of the Northwest Territories. The return will be completed by June 3, 1997.

Return To Written Question 18-13(4): Locksmiths, Security Guards, and Other Security Occupations Act

Return to Written Question 18-13(4), asked by Mr. Picco to the Minister of Justice concerning bringing into force of the Locksmiths, Security Guards and Other Security Occupations Act.

Bringing into Force of the Locksmiths, Security Guards and Other Security Occupations Act

The Act has not yet been brought into force because of concerns about the potential financial and administrative burden the Act would place on small businesses in the NWT. This Act is currently under review as part of the government's Regulatory Reform Initiative and recommendations on whether or not the Act should be brought into force will be made to Cabinet when this review is complete. There are no amendments required to bring the Act into force.

Return To Written Question 19-13(4): Amendments to the Arbitration Act

Return to Written Question 19-13(4) asked by Mr. Picco to the Minister of Justice concerning updating the Arbitration Act.

Updating the Arbitration Act

On February 20, 1997 Mr. Picco asked what efforts have been made by the Department of Justice to identify the necessary revisions to the Arbitration Act and when those revisions would be brought before the Legislative Assembly. Revisions to the Arbitration Act are on the list of legislative projects within the Department of Justice. The department intends to review the Uniform Arbitration Act developed by the Uniform Law Conference, and the recent legislation which has been passed in other jurisdictions. The review will begin in the summer of 1997, with the expectation that legislation will be introduced within a year.

Return To Written Question 20-13(4): Iqaluit Airport Revenues

Return to Written Question 20-13(4), asked by Mr. Picco to the Minister of Finance concerning revenues generated from Iqaluit airport.

Revenues Generated from Iqaluit Airport

It should be noted that Iqaluit Airport was transferred to the GNWT on July 1, 1995. Revenue for 1995-96 received prior to this date (i.e. April - June 1995) was received by Transport Canada. This amount totalled \$60,221 and was received by the GNWT as a post-closing adjustment at year-end.

Therefore, the figures are those recorded by the GNWT for the period July 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996.

To answer the specific parts of the question in the order in which they were asked:

1. Revenue generated from Iqaluit fuel sales - total dollar amount for 1995/96 was \$7,166;
2. Revenue generated by landings and other revenue generated by foreign and intra-Canadian flights was \$155,255;
3. Total surtax, if any, on fuel sales in Iqaluit was none (The concession revenue from fuel sales is received from Uqsuq Corporation who collect GST);
4. Revenue generated by leases, equipment and facilities at Iqaluit airport was \$1,051,785. (The lease/rental included a throughout fee of \$819,325 from Shell Canada based on the amount of fuel stored at the tank farm. This came to an end in August 1996 and Shell received a refund of \$164,737 based on the amount of fuel left in the tanks.

Other concession and miscellaneous revenue (gift shop, advertising, etc.) was \$75,191.

5. With respect to the "time frame and description of any privatization initiatives under-way or anticipated in the Iqaluit airport", the Department of Transportation has not been approached regarding any privatization initiatives at this airport.

Return To Written Question 21-13(4): Trailcross Privatization Information

Return to Written Question 21-13(4), asked by Mrs. Groenewegen to the Minister of Health and Social Services concerning the Trailcross privatization information.

Trailcross Privatization Information

The original request for proposals (RFP) was to operate both Trailcross and the Group Home facility. All bids received for the operation of the group home were over the allocated budget and this section was pulled from the tender. A contract in the amount of \$2,159,170 was signed with Integrated Human Resources on September 30, 1996 for the operation of Trailcross from October 1, 1996 to March 31, 1999. The contract breaks down to the following: \$425,000 for the period of October 2, 1996 to March 31, 1997; \$858,500 for the 1997/98 fiscal year; and \$875,670 for the 1998/99 fiscal year.

A subsequent RFP was issued to operate the group home facility for the period January 15 to March 31, 1997. The

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successful bidder was Aurora Child Care (Ralph and Pat Shelton) with an accepted bid of \$29,845. Another RFP closed April 25, 1997 to operate the group home for the 1997/98 fiscal year. No details have yet been released.

Return To Written Question 22-13(4): Terms of Employment for Principals

Return to Written Question 22, asked by Mr. Barnabas to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment concerning terms of employment for principal.

Terms of Employment for Principal

The Member for the High Arctic asked a number of questions concerning the termination of principals.

1. Does the change of term of employment also include the termination of the principal?

The Minister's directive does not affect the ability of a District Education Authority to terminate a principal's employment. As stated in the previous response to written question dated February 26, 1997, District Education Authorities may use section 63(6) if they wish to terminate a principal's term prior to the expiration of five years.

2. Why does the District Education Authority have the responsibility for terminating principals in their own communities?

In consultation with education bodies and other interested parties during the preparation and drafting of the Education Act, it was made clear that community input and community responsibility was desired by the local education bodies concerning hiring and staffing decisions for positions in their communities. This was incorporated in the final draft of the Act.

3. Does not this legislation render communities powerless when it comes to terminating principals?

District Education Authorities are elected bodies that are responsible to the communities which have elected them. Through this representation communities have direct input concerning decisions

such as a termination of a principal. Communities are in fact empowered through the legislation. They have greater and more specific power under the new legislation.

4. How does the legislation empower communities when it is the GNWT that is dictating the terms and conditions of employment for the principals?

As outlined in the previous written response, the Minister's directive was designed to assist District Education Authorities by designating a fair and reasonable notice period for principals whose positions were changing from an indeterminate status to a term status. Such a fair and consistent approach will alleviate potential liability for these education bodies. After consultation with Labour Relations it was a recommended course of action. It was a directive which outlined one of the terms of employment. It does not prevent an education body from including other terms or conditions as that body sees fit.

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

Provisional return to Written Question 23-13(4), asked by Mr. Krutko to the Minister of Health and Social Services concerning funding for alcohol and drug treatment programs.

Funding for Alcohol and Drug Treatment Programs

This is to advise that more time is required for a full response to Mr. Krutko's question. Information must be compiled from different databases. The return will be compiled by June 2, 1997.

Return To Written Question 24-13(4): Negotiated and Sole-Source Contract Policies

Return to Written Question 24-13(4), asked by Mr. Picco to the Premier concerning negotiated contracts and sole source contract policies.

Negotiated Contracts and Sole-Source Contract Policies

Negotiated contracts are addressed through various instruments including established guidelines, the Negotiated Transportation Contracts Policy and measures for the implementation of Article 24 of the Nunavut Final Agreement. A new policy for negotiated contracts is being developed and it will be forwarded to the Standing Committee when it is complete. A copy of the Negotiated Transportation Contracts

Policy is being provided to all Members by cover of a letter.

There is no sole-source contracts policy. Sole-source contracts are governed by the Government Contracting Regulations of the Financial Administration Act.

Return To Written Question 25-13(4): Policy on Non-Competitive Contracts

Return to Written Question 25-13(4), asked by Mr. Ootes to the Premier concerning the policy on non-competitive contracts.

Policy on Non-Competitive Contracts

Mr. Ootes asked for clarification on the government's position on non-competitive contracts and requested that a draft policy on non-competitive contracts be provided to the Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly by August 15, 1997.

Pursuant to the GNWT Contract Regulations of the Financial

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Administration Act contracts are awarded through the submission of competitive tenders or the issuing of formal invitations to tender. The exceptions to this process, negotiated and sole-source contracts, are addressed through various instruments including established guidelines, the Negotiated Transportation Contracts Policy, measures for the implementation of Article 24 of the Nunavut Final Agreement and Regulations of the Financial Administration Act.

Negotiated contracts may be awarded, subject to Executive Council approval, when:

1. The contractor can provide exceptional local and northern benefit which is unavailable through the normal tendering procedures; and/or
2. The contractor is a new northern or local company which does not yet have the experience and business skills to secure the contract on a competitive basis.

Sole-source contracts may be awarded when a contract authority believes, on reasonable grounds, that:

1. The goods, services or construction are urgently required;

2. Only one party is available to perform the contract:
or

3. The contract is an architectural or engineering contract that will not exceed \$25,000 in value or in any other type of contract that will not exceed \$1,000 in value.

A policy will be developed to govern non-competitive contracts. This policy will be forwarded to the Standing Committee for its review.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Erasmus.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Bill 13: Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that the Standing Committee on Government Operations has reviewed Bill 13, the Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, and wishes to report that Bill 13 is now ready for committee of the whole, as amended and reprinted. Mr. Speaker, I would seek unanimous consent to waive rule 17(5) and to have this bill ordered into committee of the whole for today. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to wave rule 17(5) to put this in committee of the whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. It is on the agenda in the committee of the whole. Thank you. Reports of Committees on the review of bills. Item 13, Tabling of documents. Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document, Tabled Document 70-13(4), a letter from Premier Don Morin regarding the policy on non-competitive contracts. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the unofficial results of the Nunavut public vote on guaranteed equal representation provided by the office of the chief polling officer, Tabled Document 71-13(4). Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Tabling of documents. In accordance with the provisions of section 30(2) of the Northwest Territories Act, I wish to table the Auditor General's Report on Other Matters on the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Year Ended March 31, 1996, Tabled Document 72-13(4).

In accordance with the provision of section 34.1 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the Annual Report of Payments by way of Indemnities, Allowances and Expenses Paid to Members of the Legislative Assembly for the Fiscal Ended March 31, 1997, Tabled Document 73-13(4).

In accordance with the provisions of section 21.1(a) of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act, I wish to table the Actual Valuation as at April 1, 1996, Tabled Document 74-13(4).

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

In accordance with the provision of section 194(6) of the Elections Act, I wish to table the judgement and reasons for judgement of the honourable Justice J.Z. Vertes in the trial of a petition to declare election in the Thebacha riding void, Tabled Document 75-13(4).

In accordance with Rule 42(10) I wish to table responses to the following petitions, Tabled Document 76-13(4):

Petition 1 presented by Mr. Antoine and responded to by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Petition 2 presented by Mr. Roland and responded to by the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Petition 3 presented by Mr. Roland and responded to by the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Petition 4 presented by Mr. Miltenberger and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Petition 5 presented by Mr. Picco and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

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Petition 6 presented by Mr. Enuaraq and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Petition 7 presented by Mr. Evaloarjuk and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Petition 8 presented by Mr. Evaloarjuk and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Petition 9 presented by Mr. Barnabas and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Petition 10 presented by Mr. Ningark and responded to by the Minister of the Executive.

Petition 11 presented by Mr. Roland and responded to by the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Petition 12 presented by Mr. Evaloarjuk and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Petition 13 presented by Mr. Ng and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Petition 14 presented by Mr. Picco and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Petition 15 presented by Mr. Barnabas and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Petition 16 presented by Mr. Arlooktoo and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Petition 17 presented by Mr. Picco and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Petition 18 presented by Mr. Barnabas and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Petition 19 presented by Mr. Krutko and responded to by the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

Petition 20 presented by Mr. Evaloarjuk and responded to by the Minister of Justice.

Petition 21 presented by Mr. Picco and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 16: An Act To Amend the NWT Housing Corporation Act

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, May 29, 1997, I will move that Bill 16, An Act To Amend the NWT Housing Corporation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three notices of motion.

Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1997/98

I give notice that on Thursday, May 29, 1997, I will move that Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1997/98, be read for the first time.

Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act

I give notice that on Thursday, May 29, 1997, I will move that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, be read for the first time.

Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on May 29, 1997, I will move that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Notices of motion for the first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The motion 14-13(4), Policy on Non-competitive Contracts will stay on the order paper.

Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole on bills and other matters with Mr. Steen in the chair. Bill 13 is in the consideration of the Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I would like to call the Committee to order. Perhaps I can get some direction from the Members as to what we wish to pursue. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to suggest a 15 minute break. When we resume, consideration of Bill 13.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. The Chair agrees that we have a 15 minute break, then return for consideration of Bill 13. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

-- Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I would like to call the committee back to order. We are on Bill 13, and I will ask the Minister, Mr. Todd, if he would like to introduce the Bill.

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HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do have a few brief opening remarks, if I may. Mr.

Chairman, the purpose of Bill 13, The Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 1997 is to amend various statutes of the Northwest Territories in which errors, inconsistencies or anomalies have been identified and brought to the attention of the Department of Justice by members of the judiciary, by other departments and by Department of Justice staff. Departments responsible for the administration of the various statutes being amended by the Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 1997 have each reviewed and approved the changes to the statutes under their authority. Most changes proposed in Bill 13 are minor in nature and many consist of grammatical or spelling corrections to either the English or French version of a statute. Other changes have the effect of repealing certain provisions of the statutes that have expired, lapsed or otherwise cease to exist. There are substantive changes, such as amendments to the Education Act, but these are considered to be non-controversial in nature.

Amendments are of such a nature that the preparation and legislative consideration of individual bills to correct each statute would be time-consuming for the government and the Legislative Assembly. In order for an amendment to be included in this Bill, it had to meet the following criteria:

- a. It must not be controversial
- b. It must not involve the spending of public funds
- c. It must not prejudicially affect the rights of persons and it must not create a new offence or subject a new class of persons to an existing offence

In our view, the amendments proposed in Bill 13 meet those criteria and I am the official who will be pleased to answer any questions, Mr. Chairman, the committee may have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. I would like to now ask the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, Mr. Erasmus, for committee's comments on the Bill.

Standing Committee on Government Operations
Report on Bill 13, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, I am pleased

to provide our report on Bill 13, the Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act. This Bill makes a number of changes to correct errors in existing legislation. The changes are things like errors in French translation and references to incorrect sections. None of the amendments are supposed to substantially alter legislation. On May 21st, we met with the Minister, the honourable Kelvin Ng, and his officials to review the Bill. The Minister was able to provide explanations for most areas of concern to the committee. There was only one outstanding concern. One of the changes will remove the rights of Members of the Assembly to receive a copy of the Northwest Territories Gazette. The Gazette provides updated information on statutory appointments and statutory instruments, information which some Members find very useful in carrying out their responsibilities. During discussion of the Bill in Committee of the Whole, Members may seek reassurance from the Minister that their concern about access to the Gazette will be addressed. Without this assurance, Members may be introducing a motion to amend that section of the Bill. Mr. Chairman, that concludes our report on Bill 13. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. I would like to now offer the Minister the opportunity to bring in witnesses, if he wishes.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I would. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Do Members agree that the Minister may have witnesses present?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms bring in the witnesses. I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Todd, if he would be good enough to introduce his witnesses.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I am just getting geared up. Mr. Chairman, on my immediate left is Wendy Hutchinson, who is a senior policy advisor to ECE and on my right is Mark Aitken who is, of course, a legal

legislative counsel from the Department of Justice, who will answer any difficult questions that I cannot answer today. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, and welcome to the committee. I will now open the floor to general comments on the Bill by the Members. Are there general comments by Members? Are there no general comments? Members agreed that we go clause by clause and review the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. I will start on the covering page, Bill 13, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 1997. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 1, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 2, clause 4.

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 3, clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 4, I presume this is a different act.
Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. Then, on page 7 we have clause
11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 13 of Bill 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 8, clause 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 15.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 16.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 9, clause 17.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 18.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. On page 10, clause 19.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 20.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 21 of Bill 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 22.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 11, clause 23.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 24.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed? Thank you. Page 12, clause 25 of Bill 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 26.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 27.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 28.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 13 of Bill 13, clause 29.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 30.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 31.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 32. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in Bill 13, The Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, clause 32 which is the Statutory Instruments Act on page 14. I would like to briefly address some concerns that have been expressed regarding the impact of this legislative amendment. This

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clause will remove the right of Members of this Assembly to receive a copy of the NWT Gazette. As Mr. Erasmus, previously indicated, the Gazette

provides information to Members that we find very useful in carrying out our responsibilities. Rather than moving a motion to amend this clause, I wonder if Minister Todd, could assure this House that through changes to the regulations of the Statutory Instruments Act, he will ensure that all Members who wish to continue to receive their copies of the Gazette will be able to do so, upon request of the individual Member. I wonder if the Minister, Minister Todd, could provide the Members with this reassurance at this time as appropriate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. We can provide that assurance in regulations, Mr. Aitken has advised me that we will do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Clause 31.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 32.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 33.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. The Bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Does the committee agree that Bill 13 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Bill 13 is now ready for third reading, and I thank the Minister and the witnesses for their time.

I would like now some direction from the committee as to what. Is that all I have on the agenda? Since that is all I have on the agenda, I will now rise and report progress. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I would like to call the House back to order. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Steen.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 13 and would like to report that Bill 13 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Arlooktoo. All those in favour please signify. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, meetings tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, at 11:00 a.m. of the Ordinary Members Caucus, and at 12:00 noon, of the Western Caucus.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, May 28, 1997:

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

6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Policy on Non-Competitive Contracts (Mr. Ootes)
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
 - Bill 13, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 1997
22. Orders of the Day

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DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House is adjourned to 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 28, 1997.

-- ADJOURNMENT