



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**4th Session**

**Day 44**

**13<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

**HANSARD**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1997**

Pages 1345 - 1368

Page numbers reflect printed Hansard

The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

**SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Good afternoon, Members. Welcome back to the Legislative Assembly. I am sure we have all had a good and productive summer in our constituencies. The time needed to spend with our family and children is important. Members must now be ready and raring to get down to the business of the House, but within the rules, I hope.

I know that you will join me in sending our best wishes to our colleague from Amittuq, who is still in the hospital in Montreal, recovering from leg surgery. On your behalf, flowers have been sent to Mr. Evaloarjuk. It is hoped that Mr. Evaloarjuk will be able to return to the Assembly by the beginning of the Fifth Session.

--Applause

I would also ask Members to include in your prayers, the mother of the Member for Mackenzie Delta. Mr. Krutko's mother is fighting a courageous battle with cancer and is currently at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. Our prayers are with them. Again, I welcome Members back to the Assembly. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 98-13(4): Remarks on the Reconvening of the Fourth Session

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome all of my colleagues back as we reconvene to conclude the Fourth Session of the 13th. Assembly. While the break has allowed us sometime to return to our ridings and meet with our constituents, spend time with our families and enjoy our beautiful northern summer, the work of the government and the Legislative Assembly has continued in high gear.

Among the major activities has been the extensive review and public consultation on the family law legislation that was conducted by the Standing Committee on Social Programs. This is an important legislation that we will be discussing further over the next few weeks. In addition to that, much work has been completed on the business plans and the preliminary budget process for 1998/99. We are now concluding consultation with the standing committees.

As well, work continued on several program initiatives including the review of the Student Financial Assistance Program directed by Minister Charles Dent, the ongoing review of the road, marine and air transportation system needs in the north under the direction of Minister Jim Antoine and the Economic Framework and Protected Area Strategy under the leadership of Minister Stephen Kakfwi. Health and Social Services Minister, Kelvin Ng, also led an initiative to create a \$4 million Strategic Initiative Fund aimed at helping Health and Social Service boards in some regions improve health services and health status over the longer term.

Mr. Speaker, much progress has also been made on the implementation of the \$16 million Northern Employment Strategy spearheaded by Minister John Todd. The NWT Housing Corporation's Plan 2000 brought forward by Minister Goo Arlooktoo and the municipal legislation review, directed by Minister Manikot Thompson.

We have also seen results in our efforts to improve government communications. Among other things, as part of our commitment to communicate better within the public sector, we have reintroduced an employee newsletter to open the channels of communication and to share information of importance with our employees throughout the north. Mr. Speaker, I am also very happy to report that 93 percent of the 319 students hired by the government this summer were affirmative action employees.

Mr. Speaker, this government has also taken a strong and vocal stand on the issue of a northern diamond sorting and valuation facility. We have stated on many

occasions that diamonds produced in the Northwest Territories must be sorted and valued in the Northwest Territories. As a government we are firmly committed to making this happen. I have directed Minister Todd to take a hard look at the tax regime associated with the diamond industry and along with Minister Kakfwi to be aggressive in the discussions with all parties, including the federal government, to ensure the north gets its share of the wealth. Diamonds mined in the north must be sorted and valued in the north. As far as we are concerned, this issue is not open to debate. We are very pleased Diavik Diamond Mine has indicated that it is their intention to locate a sorting and valuation facility in the Northwest Territories. We are encouraged that federal officials appear to support valuation in the north. Ministers Todd and

Page 1346

Kakfwi are now leading our effort to convince the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister, Jane Stewart, and her department to require detailed sorting takes place in the north. Minister Kakfwi will be providing Members with an overview of the significance of the diamond industry over the next few days.

Mr. Speaker, on the national front, I was able to represent the Northwest Territories at the Annual Premiers' Conference in August and at a meeting in September to discuss national unity. At the Annual Premiers' Conference, which Deputy Premier Arlooktoo also attended, there was a great deal of discussion and support for the concept of working together to ensure all Canadians have equal opportunities and equal access to a good quality of life and standard of living. This is particularly good news for the north, as the stronger and more prosperous provinces recognize they have a role to play in assisting regions where economic and social conditions are below the Canadian average. The Premiers have pledged to examine ways of balancing the scales.

As part of this, the Premiers also acknowledged that areas of the country, including the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, are heavily dependent on the highway system for access to the rest of Canada and for access to communities, resources, economic development, tourism and trade. They agreed that special considerations should be given to the needs of remote northern regions in developing funding arrangements for a highway system to provide access for tourism and economic development.

The Premiers also agreed that transitional and implementation costs associated with self-government should be the responsibility of the Government of Canada. At the Annual Premiers' Conference, I also had the opportunity to discuss some of the issues facing the north and I am pleased to inform you, I was able to gain all of the Premiers' support in our negotiations with the federal government. Building on this, this government has also invested a great amount of time in an overall strategy aimed at helping the federal government, the provincial governments, the Yukon government and all Canadians understand the implications of the changes happening in the north today. This plan is aimed at gaining national recognition that we have a collective responsibility to deal with some of the social and economic concerns facing the people who live in Canada's north.

Mr. Speaker, the north offers a celebration of what it means to be Canadian, and the changes that are happening in the north should and could serve as an inspiration to the rest of Canada. Our involvement in the national unity issue is therefore important on two fronts--first in allowing the people of the north the same right as every other Canadian to have their voice heard in the debate of the future of the country, and second, to be heard collectively and as an equal at the national level. Mr. Speaker, we will be seeking Members' support and input during this session on how we consult the people of the north. While at the unity meeting in Calgary, which Minister Kakfwi also attended, I also met with the new Assembly of First Nations' Leader Phil Fontaine. At that meeting, I stressed the important role aboriginal people have in the issue of the future and unity of Canada. This is something we will stress again when the Premiers meet with the national aboriginal leaders in Winnipeg on November 18.

Mr. Speaker, among the other highlights of this past summer was the first official visit to the Northwest Territories by the new federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Honourable Jane Stewart. While on her visit to Yellowknife, she met with Members of Cabinet and agreed to work closely, along with the Aboriginal Summit, to find solutions to the many issues facing the north and in particular with the creation of two new territories. During her meeting with Cabinet, we had the opportunity to discuss issues such as adequate funding arrangements for the two new territories, devolution, the location of the diamond valuation facility and road development to resource rich areas in the north. Overall, I am pleased to note that Minister Stewart is committed to achieving

a new partnership based on government-to-government relationships involving aboriginal governments, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the federal government. Like us, she believes the best solutions for the north should be made in the north. Minister Stewart also stressed, along with all of Cabinet, strong support of the tripartite discussions between the federal and territorial governments and the Aboriginal Summit. As a starting point, we have agreed to direct federal and territorial officials to focus on self-government discussions as soon as possible.

Since that initial meeting, Minister Stewart has also travelled to Iqaluit, where she met with Deputy Premier Goo Arlooktoo and signed two financial agreements with the territorial government. In his meeting with the Minister, Mr. Arlooktoo again stressed the importance of the federal government's role in the implementation plans and priorities and reaffirmed the need to strengthen the partnership between all stakeholders in the creation of two new territories. As well, Minister Dent and Minister Stewart signed an agreement that will see \$11.9 million transferred to the territorial government for training of Inuit people to help achieve 50 percent representation in the Nunavut public service by 1999. Minister Stewart and Minister Thompson also co-signed an agreement for \$8.22 million in federal funding for the territorial government this year to meet the projected infrastructure needs for 11 Nunavut communities. This is the first year of a three-year commitment of \$32 million.

Mr. Speaker, substantial activity has taken place towards the creation of two new territories. One key area in planning for 1999 is the issue of employment for current GNWT employees in relation to the two new governments. Mr. Speaker, our government is working closely with all parties, and specifically with the Nunavut Interim Commissioner's office to ensure this matter maintains a high priority. Public servants in the north deserve as much employment certainty as government can reasonably offer in an environment of fiscal restraint. All parties involved in the planning of two new territories should work together to ensure we provide an early and clear message to all GNWT employees as to their employment status.

Page 1347

Likewise, our position remains firm that the costs associated with hiring new staff for Nunavut, the transfer process, relocations and severance packages

are transitional costs and must be covered by the federal government.

Meanwhile, under the direction of Cabinet, Minister Todd is making progress on the issue of transitional funding and on ensuring adequate funding formulas for two new territories. A number of meetings have been held with Finance Canada, DIAND and other key federal officials to stress the need for funding to cover the incremental costs for both Nunavut and the Western Territory and for the necessary transitional costs. As a result, a special committee on financing Nunavut and the Western Territory has been established to address these issues and discuss options for financing mechanisms after 1999. Phase 2 of the GNWT Division Implementation Plans, which departments have been busy preparing this summer, will assist us in identifying the full range of transitional costs that are required.

Mr. Speaker, we face one of the greatest challenges of any group of political leaders in Canada today; - that is, maintaining and making decisions for one government while at the same time shifting our focus and our thinking for two new governments. As part of that, we must recognize the differences between Nunavut and the west in terms of climate, geography and existing infrastructure in relation to future needs and requirements.

As you know, Minister Todd has the overall responsibility for coordinating this government's approach to the creation of two new territories, while Minister Antoine serves as the co-chair of the Western Constitutional Working Group.

However, in order to emphasize balance as we start thinking like two territories, it is my pleasure today to announce I have appointed the Honourable Charles Dent as Minister responsible for Western Transition Planning. and the Honourable Goo Arlooktoo as Minister responsible for Nunavut Transition Planning. These Ministers will work closely with their respective caucuses to develop plans for transition.

Mr. Speaker, these appointments mark an important milestone as we take the next step in our planning for the two new governments. As well, during this session, we will be tabling a Transition Action Plan for the creation of two New Territories. Within 40 days we will have completed a second document specifically related to the Western Territory.

Mr. Speaker, as we move ahead, I must stress once again that as Members of the Legislative Assembly of

the Northwest Territories, we must continue to keep working together. As elected leaders serving the whole territory, we must remain committed to being fair.

In doing so, there may be times where financially it may appear things are not equal. However, our ultimate outcome must be to ensure all citizens of the north have the same opportunities and the same quality of life whether they are future residents of Nunavut or the Western Territory.

Mr. Speaker, in a few weeks we will mark the second anniversary of our election to the Legislative Assembly. Eighteen months ago, Members of the House unanimously approved an agenda for change that included ten priorities covering areas in which we felt action was necessary. First and foremost was to secure our financial future.

Since that time, we have used the agenda for change to guide government actions and initiatives, and much progress has been made in many of those areas.

It has not always been easy. These are very challenging times, and we face a number of important and controversial issues. But I am impressed with how Members of the government, such as Minister Kelvin Ng, are managing the difficult choices we must make for citizens today and in the future.

Over the next few weeks and into the next session of the Legislative Assembly, this government will be providing the Members with a formal update on all of the things that we have accomplished working together.

As well, as part of our commitment to improving communications over the next few weeks and months, we will be sharing this message with the people of the Northwest Territories and inviting their comments on what we have accomplished, and what we have left to do. Because we live in an environment of uncertainty, we owe it to our people to share as much information as possible. We need to make a renewed commitment to public accountability.

Mr. Speaker, the Members of this House are vital in that process, and I look forward to working with every Member as we involve our constituents in the ongoing discussion about current issues and about our future. We owe it to the people of the Northwest Territories to keep them informed on the discussions that affect them and to give them the opportunity to be heard.

Mr. Speaker, this has been an overview of how this government spent its summer vacation.

As I have stated many times, with less than two years left in our mandate, and much to do, we cannot waste a moment if we are to address all of the issues facing the north and prepare for 1999. Clearly we have made the most of the past few months.

Continuing on that theme, I would like to conclude my remarks by saying I look forward to a productive session and the continuation of a positive, healthy discussion of the economic, social and political future of Canada's north. Mahsi cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Premier. Ministers' statements, Mr. Ng.

Minister's Statement 99-13(4): Baffin Regional Health Board and Keewatin Regional Health Board Reviews

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back colleagues. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, both the Baffin and Keewatin Regional Health Boards announced plans to change

Page 1348

the way some services were delivered to residents. These changes involved the end of two long-standing contracts with southern service providers. Responsibility to ensure the most efficient and effective method of service delivery is certainly a board responsibility, and both boards felt they were acting in the best interests of the public they serve. Both boards acted within their mandates in making these decisions. However, over the summer there have been many expressions of concern about the proposed changes from Members of this House, regional leaders and the public in the Keewatin and the Baffin.

To try to get these facts about the situation and what needed to be done, I established an internal review that was to report to me by September 26th. The main objective for the review team was to determine whether the people living in the Baffin and Keewatin were at risk. Were the services necessary to ensure the safety of the residents going to be available on October 1st when the new arrangements came into effect in the Keewatin? Would general practitioner

services be available? Although the process may not ...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Minister. The time allotted for Ministers' statements is now over. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Kitikmeot is seeking unanimous consent to complete his Minister's statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Ng, you have unanimous consent.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you honourable colleagues, Mr. Speaker. Although the process may not be as comprehensive or documented as it should be, the bottom line is that the Baffin and Keewatin residents will not be at risk on October 1st. There are adequate arrangements in place to ensure there is continuity in service.

However, the review did highlight a number of weaknesses in how these new contracts came about. The two biggest areas of concern are planning and communications. Both the Baffin and Keewatin Health Boards were looking for new, more effective ways of providing services to residents. Their general ideas were good. However, in the Keewatin, there was a lack of formal thorough planning to support these decisions.

There was also no clear implementation plans to allow these changes to happen in an organized way. Planning is also an issue in the Baffin. To this point, there is no formal plan and one will have to be developed in the next couple of months.

With the lack of formal planning, there was also a lack of communication between the boards, the residents and the staff in the regions. The change process would have been greatly aided by regular, straightforward communication on what was happening and how things would change.

Mr. Speaker, it is also clear to me that there is more that the Department of Health and Social Services should be doing in trying to give boards room to make their own decisions. We have moved too far away.

While the department should not be overseeing the day-to-day operations of the boards, we clearly have a role in providing support and in providing regular feed-back through an auditing and monitoring process.

I have directed the department to establish the support and monitoring functions, so this type of situation can be avoided in the future. The formal report on this review will be available publicly tomorrow. I will ensure that all Members of the Assembly will have a copy of the report before it is released.

I would like to thank the members of the review team and the many individuals in the north and in the south who contributed to their review. Their efforts have allowed us to address this issue in a very short time and a report will allow us to make some positive changes on how we do business.

Mr. Speaker, as Members will see from the report recommendations, there is work to be done. However, I am confident that both boards are able to ensure today that all residents of their regions will have access to the services they need, just as they did yesterday before the changes came into effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement 399-13(4): Diamond Sorting and Valuation

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also extend a welcome back to my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest this morning to a CBC 7:30 news report on the subject of diamond valuation and sorting.

The one man guru of the federal government knowledgeable on the topic advising Minister Stewart stated and I quote, "we are concerned with whatever amount of sorting is required to assess the value of diamonds for royalty purposes", end quote.

Mr. Lazarovich has got it right so far, but this is the point at which he went off the tracks. He contradicted himself when he went on to say and I quote, "we are

not talking about sorting for the purposes of selling because we should not be interfering with the company's marketing decisions", end quote.

Is Mr. Lazarovich going to weigh the diamonds for federal government royalty purposes? Why can we not do like other producing countries and set the value for royalty purposes on the selling price? Why does every other diamond producing country in the world have their diamonds evaluated and sorted in the country of production? Why will Canada not come right out and demand sorting of the diamonds be done to the extent that Canada can obtain the most accurate and fair royalties for its non-renewable resource, and the NWT receive its maximum potential from the sorting and related jobs?

Page 1349

Canada is getting involved in one of the most elite industries in the world and the Government of Canada has one person advising it on this initiative. It is vital Mr. Lazarovich along with Minister Stewart visit the NWT and meet with elected Members of this Legislature so she can hear and learn first hand the complete picture on diamond evaluation and sorting.

Minister Stewart's one man show does not have the whole picture. Mr. Speaker, we have more individuals in the Northwest Territories government who, in most cases, have more knowledge and experience of the whole diamond industry than Mr. Lazarovich. They can make themselves available to the Minister so she can have the full picture on what is good for the north and also that which is definitely good for Canada.

Mr. Speaker, is it any wonder that Quebec and British Columbia are talking about separating from Canada and demanding to be heard when it comes to the resources of their jurisdictions? Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, the federal Minister must be more responsive to the aspirations of northerners who are trying to survive from the imposed federal cuts to formula financing.

The people of the north are attempting to create some new wealth from the resource that is on our door step, only to find that a federal bureaucrat can, by the stroke of her pen, end our dream of some semblance of self-sufficiency. Mr. Speaker, I will not sit back and watch this once-in-a-lifetime diamond opportunity get lost in Ottawa politics. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 400-13(4): Diamond Sorting and Valuation

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement is also in regard to diamond evaluating and sorting. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked and appalled this morning as I drove to work to hear a CBC radio interview with Mr. Lazarovich with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Mr. Lazarovich is the federal official in charge of developing the proposed amendments to the Canada Mining Regulations. For months, I have heard speculation and fears expressed on the part of business leaders and politicians that, left to their own devices, the diamond companies would not do right by the north in terms of regional and community economic benefits.

Things like, "if they are going to fly over us, leave the diamonds in the ground" and even some threats of barricading winter access roads. It seems that our fears with respect to things like the understanding of northern issues and sensitivity to the desperate need for economic growth in the north may have been misdirected at the diamond industry and perhaps should more appropriately be directed at the federal government responsible for northern development.

After hearing this interview, it is obvious that senior staff in the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development are the ones who need a lesson in northern development for northerners. If we cannot count on the federal government to support us in a bid for more than limited sorting of diamonds for the purpose of assessing federal royalties, we really do have our work cut out for us. If the federal government has the power to determine where the remainder of the sorting takes place, but chooses not to, they are derelict in their duties. If Mr. Lazarovich sees that decision as "more of a private boardroom decision", I have to ask in whose private boardroom

does he see that decision being made? In the boardroom of people who could sleep quite comfortably at night knowing that they are shipping our diamonds and our jobs offshore?

The same government that is reducing federal transfer payments in anticipation of the north becoming more economically and fiscally self reliant had better take a more responsible approach to this industry, which is the largest single potential opportunity to affect the north's economy in many years. Again, along with my colleague for Yellowknife South, I am asking for a meeting to be convened in the north, with northern leaders and the Minister responsible for Indian Affairs and Northern Development, which will afford Ms Stewart the opportunity to come clean with the federal government's position relating to diamond mining in the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 401-13(4): Relocation of Violent Offender to Fort Smith

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to add my voice to those of the many people in Fort Smith who are concerned about the planned relocation to Fort Smith of an individual by the name of Marcel Charles Desbiens. Mr. Speaker, I received letters here from the people of Fort Smith that indicate very clearly this is an issue of significant concern. This gentleman has a record as a violent offender, 19 criminal offences, four serious charges, sexual assault, one manslaughter charge and he plans to come to our community. In our opinion, it places our grandmothers, granddaughters, wives and mothers at risk. I will be raising this issue with the Minister today to press that point. I will also be encouraging the people of Fort Smith to take all legal means at their disposal to make it very clear that we have enough problems of our own without having people like this come to our community to place our people at risk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Page 1350

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements, Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement 402-13(4): Impact of Government Reductions on Inuvik

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, it is time to once again to get down to the business of running a government although you heard earlier from the Premier that they were quite busy without us. That is what makes us nervous on this side. Since we recessed in June, I have had a chance to spend time in my community. I have had a chance to visit and meet with friends and family. It also gave me the opportunity to see the impact of the decisions we have made as a government. I have been able to talk to a lot of people in an informal setting. I have heard concerns from young and old alike. It is with these concerns that I bring a message to this government and Cabinet that the community of Inuvik has had enough of reductions, enough of hearing we are working on it, and it wants to see results. Not results that come on a piece of paper that state, "due to the recession, we are unable to proceed with your request at this time." Mr. Speaker, it is time to start doing the things that will make our communities a healthy and viable place to raise our families. I speak for many when I say it is time to get on with the business of helping to create opportunities, because with opportunities come jobs. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 403-13(4): Passing of Abraham Okpik

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this summer the north lost a very special person. Mr. Abraham Okpik was a father, a husband, an Order of Canada recipient, a politician, a raconteur and a friend. Abe was born in the western Arctic and, like many northerners, was sent south to the hospital for TB. In hospital, Abe showed his dexterity with language. He quickly mastered the Cree language he learned from other patients. After he returned north, an accident with his dog team left him permanently disabled. However, this did not slow him down and he continued his traditional pursuits.

The 1940's and 50's brought a lot of changes to the north. Abe again showed his adaptability by working proactively for northerners and northern causes. Abe



was the first Inuit to sit on the Territorial Council when he was appointed in 1965. Abe then took on the task that many remember him for Operation Surname. Abe's gift of languages and dialect enabled him to complete the task of eliminating the asinine "e" and "w" numbers that Inuit were known by. This task was carried out by Abe with a minuscule budget. Afterwards Abe received the Order of Canada for his work. Although, originally from the western Arctic, Iqaluit became Abe's home. He never forgot his Inuvialuit roots and was respected throughout the territories. When I was elected, I asked Abe if he would accept my nomination for him to sit on the NWT Elders Association and he accepted. Abe served on this committee as well as on council with the town of Iqaluit before he died.

When Peter Gzowski came to Iqaluit this past spring for the annual literacy golf tournament, Peter wanted me to participate. I went to Abe's house and because of his difficulty in walking, we arranged for Abe to be driven around by skidoo on the golf course. Abe told me that the course located on the sea ice reminded him of the previous tournament the NWT Literacy Association had in Yellowknife in 1990. He used to like cracking jokes and he said to me "Ed, this time try and play golf and please do not sing." Abe took a turn for the worse this summer and I visited him in the hospital. He was always joking with me and he told me to lose some weight. Abe was a friend, a confidante to his wife and family. On behalf of the people of Iqaluit and this Assembly, I would like to express our sincere sympathy and sorrow on Abe's passing. He will be missed.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements, Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 404-13(4): Passing of Gamaliel Akeegok

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to remember an elder who passed away recently in the highest, most northern part of the north in Grise Fiord. He was born on April 16, 1930 and he died August 11, 1997 this past summer. He was also a member of the settlement council in Grise Fiord during the 1980's. He was an employee of DPW through the early 1970's to late 90's. In 1988 to 1995, he was an employee of the local housing association, where he was a maintenance officer in Grise Fiord. He was also a member of the Elders Group through the Hamlet

Council and a member of the housing association within the community.

He was an active member of the community who tried to help other people and he also welcomed all kinds of people into his house. Mr. Akeegok had 11 children and he moved from Arctic Bay to Grise Fiord during the early 1960's. I wanted to recognize this very important person who was a member of our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 405-13(4): Employment Training Programs

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to welcome my colleagues back from their summer break. I hope everyone has had a relaxing break. Today, while driving into Yellowknife listening to the radio, it amazed me to hear that Yellowknife is now in a very unique position, and that being the enviable position of not having enough workers to fill all the jobs that are currently available.

Then, we have in my constituency many unemployed, untrained adults that want to work. They are unable to find any work because they cannot get trained, and the reason they cannot get trained is because no dollars are available. During the last sitting of this House, a number of initiatives were announced that would, I thought, help my residents, as well as

Page 1351

the residents of other regions to get training or possibly develop businesses.

Of course, this would spur the economic growth in smaller communities and also create employment. However, we are now five months past the date of these announcements and there is still little or no action from this government to provide our residents with any direction as to how one can qualify for training funds, where to do so or even how much is available for any of these programs. Over the course of the summer, I have had many people come to me wanting assistance to find training possibilities. Every government office I have gone to has told me they know nothing other than what was announced here in

the House about any programs or dollars that should have been accessible.

This government needs to get the word out. Our residents cannot wait five months or longer to find out what programs may be available for training. They need training and work now! Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 406-13(4): Economic Development Officer for Broughton Island

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know the goal of our present government is to reduce the dependency on government for jobs and social assistance. We tell our residents to make choices, get training, get a job and get off social assistance. In the small communities, this is more difficult than people think. In the community of Broughton Island, there are people willing to work and wanting to work; but there are few jobs. The people of Broughton Island have ideas and resources they wish to pursue that they can develop more jobs in the community. They need help to do this.

Presently there is no economic development officer in Broughton Island. Because of this, it appears that the community is missing out in the development of tourism and resource industries. The presence of an economic development officer in the community would assist and coordinate the residents in the development of their resources.

Mr. Speaker, when we meet to finalize budgets, we review finances department to department; not seeing the whole picture. When we look at the situation in Broughton Island as part of a larger picture, it makes economic sense to place an economic development officer in that community. Through the development of local resources and jobs, there will be less dependency on government programs like social assistance. This reduced dependency on social assistance will result in a reduced cost to the government.

Mr. Speaker, we as a government have a responsibility to help people and communities pursue economic independence. By placing economic development officers in small communities, like Broughton Island, both the community and the

government benefit. The community reduces its dependence on government and the government reduces the cost of social assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 407-13(4): Economic Stimulation

**MR. OOTES:**

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret when I say that Yellowknife's economy, like that of other communities in the north, is in desperate need of stimulation.

Today I want to talk about two areas that have the potential to provide some good news. I stress the word potential, for the initiatives I will speak about are by no means reality yet.

For the past six months, a number of us legislators have been working to have diamond valuation and sorting done here in the north. Those of us who are working on this initiative want the federal government to understand the seriousness of our intent that employment and spin-off benefits from diamond mining must accrue to northerners.

Federal Minister Stewart better understand that detailed sorting of diamonds and valuation must be done here, not out of country and not at the mine site. It is not acceptable to put the diamonds in a bag and ship them off to be sorted and valued in Europe. We must get value-added benefits from northern diamond mines.

Another one of my priorities, Mr. Speaker, is to ensure that the federal government transfer jobs related to the north that they are actually located here in the north. During the spring Session I introduced a motion, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Picco, and passed by this Legislature, asking for the transfer of federal civil servants to the north. The motion asked the Premier to communicate this request to the Prime Minister.

It is my view that federal civil servants, whose jobs require them to make decisions that will affect us all, live here. Perhaps Mr. Lazarovich's position should be here because he is affecting our lifestyle. I intend to follow this topic up and will be asking the Premier if he has communicated with the federal government and

what their response has been. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 408-13(4): Keewatin Health Board - Request for Public Inquiry

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will be looking for the diamond sorting plant in Arviat and Baker Lake, I forgot to mention it. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a written response from the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories regarding my request for a full public inquiry into the activities of the Keewatin Health Board.

Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner's response stated that, after consulting with the Premier, she would not agree to holding

Page 1352

such a public inquiry. It is, of course, very disappointing to have such an important request refused. This is especially so when one considers that a public inquiry was requested by the NTI, the Keewatin Inuit Association, all the Keewatin mayors and the Union of Northern Workers.

Although the Minister of Health has agreed to an internal or technical review, I do not believe this will go far enough to address the issues that have been raised by the Keewatin people.

Mr. Speaker, I have taken this matter as far as I can on behalf of the Keewatin people. I will now be monitoring the results of Minister Ng's report, and I will be following up with questions during the days ahead. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to recognize a constituent of mine from Hay River, deputy mayor Ray Young, who is here visiting in Yellowknife. Mr. Young just passed the 25 year mark as an educator in Hay River. Welcome to the Gallery.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. Bill Lyall, who is a former member of the Northwest Territories' Legislative Assembly and also the President of the Arctic Co-op which is the highest employer and trainer in the Northwest Territories, next to the government. I think it is the highest. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Welcome to the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to recognize Mr. Bill Lyall, who is a constituent. I will not go into details of his past affiliation, but he is a valuable contributor to the north, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not normally have an opportunity in this forum to recognize anybody, but I would like to recognize Mr. Cliff King, who is down helping out with the negotiations here on behalf of the teachers in the Inuvik region.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a long time Yellowknifer and a very respected individual, Mr. Ed Jeske.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me pleasure to recognize Mr. David Talbot from the Union of Northern Workers and also Mr. Ron Williams, who I believe is still in the Gallery. Mr. Williams is a board member of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think anyone has recognized Pat Thomas from Yellowknife, the president of the NWTTA. Sitting with her from Iqaluit is Mr. Erin Blair, one of the executive members of the NWTTA and a member of their negotiating team. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. Tony Bugens and Bill Pois both long time residents of Yellowknife and both at one time lived in Yellowknife North. I am not sure exactly if they reside there still or not. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 551-13(4): Government of the Northwest Territories Position on Diamond Sorting/Valuation

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the record of this House I would like to ask Mr. Todd what is the official position of this government with respect to diamond sorting and valuation? What measures is he prepared to invoke to ensure that northerners do not

lose out on this opportunity as one facet of the diamond mining industry? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Just to remind the Members that when you recognize a Minister, you should also recognize his office. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 551-13(4): Government of the Northwest Territories Position on Diamond Sorting/Valuation

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I think the opposition has been consistent. We have indicated to both the federal government as recently as last week when I met Mr. Martin, the Finance Minister, and Ms. Stewart, the new DIAND Minister, that we want to see diamond sorting and valuation done in the north. We went down for a variety of reasons. Both my colleagues from Yellowknife and Hay River outlined that earlier today. The most important reason for us is to make sure that we get an accurate reflection of the value of the

Page 1353

diamonds, so that the royalty in the tax regime is reflected accordingly. As you know, we are currently trying to reconcile with our federal counterparts for an expanded tax window to ensure that some of these revenues fall back into the north. So the position of this government is clear. We are advocates of the need for northern diamonds to be sorted in the north, Botswana diamonds in southern Botswana. Yakutia diamonds are sorted in Yakutia. Northern diamonds better be sorted in the north.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 551-13(4): Government of the Northwest Territories Position on Diamond Sorting/Valuation

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister Todd referred to his meeting with Minister Paul Martin and Minister Jane Stewart. Could he advise the House as to what kind of response, assurances or reactions he got to his delivery to those Ministers in Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 551-13(4): Government of the Northwest Territories Position on Diamond Sorting/Valuation

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I think it is important for everybody to understand that Mr. Lazarovich does not determine what Canadian public policy is, as it relates to diamond sorting and valuation. So really, Mr. Lazarovich or whoever he is is some nondescript bureaucrat that gives advice to the federal ministers. As I have indicated many times, he may think he is the Canadian expert on diamonds. I would like to think I am the Canadian expert on northern diamonds.

The position in terms of trying to determine what an appropriate public policy should be as it relates to diamonds in the Northwest Territories will be made by politicians, not bureaucrats. I have assurances from both Ministers that the northern position and the position we are taking will be included in the public policy that will eventually develop and will meet the needs not just of northerners, but of Canada as a whole. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 551-13(4): Government of the Northwest Territories Position on Diamond Sorting/Valuation

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to hear that Mr. Todd feels he is the Canadian expert after his most recent trip to Antwerp and London. I am sure he comes back with more knowledge than ever. Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the Minister could advise the House, for the benefit of the public, on what some of the extended benefits are? We have been talking about the royalty regime and how Canada can benefit from the royalty. But there are expanded benefits to be realized from sorting and valuating diamonds in the north. I wonder for those of us, who were not along on the trip, if he could update us on that kind of information? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 551-13(4): Government of the Northwest Territories Position on Diamond Sorting/Valuation

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Well, of course, my honourable colleague could have come along on the trip, but she chose to stay home and so did her mayor. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to differentiate between the two types of sorting. Sorting for royalty purposes is slightly different from marketing purposes. For marketing purposes, you sort them in certain categories to determine where you are going to sell them, who you are going to sell them to, what the value is, et cetera. Our position has been if we are only going to sort for valuation purposes, we really are not that interested. We need to ensure that the level of sorting is sufficient to give us, as I said, an accurate reflection of what the overall value of that production is. It was suggested to us, I believe in Antwerp, that we can determine what the royalty is based on the balance sheet. It just borders on ludicrous. This was from the industry itself and that is why, to put it mildly, I was more than offended with respect to that discussion that was undertaken.

It is my belief that if we can get an appropriate level of sorting and valuating done in the Northwest Territories, that will bring some jobs and bring some of the diamond industry into the Northwest Territories. My primary interest as a Finance Minister is to ensure that the sorting is done to a level that provides, as I said, an accurate level of valuation so the royalties and the tax regime are to a maximum. So that we can get our share when we negotiate that with Mr. Martin and Ms. Stewart in the coming months. Our principal concern is on the royalty side, because it brings significant fiscal rewards if we can make the right arrangement. Our secondary concern is to ensure that any job associated with Canadian diamond valuation and sorting be Canadian jobs. Is the industry suggesting that the Canadian diamonds should be sorted by Belgians? I hope not. Canadian diamonds are going to be sorted by Canadians. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 551-13(4): Government of the Northwest Territories Position on Diamond Sorting/Valuation

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you can tell by the Members around the table here today, we are keenly interested on how we can be involved in participating and ensuring that this valuation sorting comes to fruition and realization in the north. What kind of a window of opportunity

Page 1354

do we have here? Where do we go from here? What is in the immediate offering on this subject? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 551-13(4): Government of the Northwest Territories Position on Diamond Sorting/Valuation

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kakfwi is developing a paper for Cabinet which is going to put together an overall, one window, strategic approach to this issue. There will be a political as well as bureaucratic component to it. I am optimistic that will be concluded this week. I have already committed in the House, along with Mr. Kakfwi, to sit down with both federal Ministers to try to give them another point of view as it relates to Canadian and northern diamonds.

As I said to Mr. Martin, "Would Mr. Tobin allow this to happen in Voisey Bay? Would Mr. McKenna allow this to happen in New Brunswick? Why should Mr. Morin be allowed to let this happen in the Northwest Territories?"

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 552-13(4): Policy on Contracting Former Employees

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, can the Premier inform

this House if there is a policy of this government concerning giving contracts or tenders to former employees of the government formerly in senior positions like a deputy minister, an ADM, et cetera? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 552-13(4): Policy on Contracting Former Employees

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that the Member had said, "to give contracts?" Normally contracts are tendered and people are allowed to tender on contracts if they are the best. Supposedly they can take that contract or win it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 552-13(4): Policy on Contracting Former Employees

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was not my question. My question was is there a policy for the awarding of these contracts? I will ask the question again. Is there a policy of this government that precludes top former senior positions in getting contracts? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 552-13(4): Policy on Contracting Former Employees

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be willing to look into the matter for the Member and speak to him on the issue to make it more clear what he is asking for and then I will provide him with that policy. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 552-13(4): Policy on Contracting Former Employees

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be very interested in sitting down with the Premier and talking to him, but I would like an answer to my question first. Is there a policy or regulation of the government concerning giving contracts or awarding tenders to former employees of this government in senior positions like a former ADM or a former DM, et cetera?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 552-13(4): Policy on Contracting Former Employees

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said previously, I would be quite happy to look for that policy to see if it is there and how it is worded. I do not have it here with me. I will sit down and talk to the Member about it and give him that policy. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 552-13(4): Policy on Contracting Former Employees

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister saying that there is not a policy, that he does not know if there is a policy or that he is going to check to see if there is a policy? Can the Minister tell me whether there is no policy, there is a policy or he is going to check to see if there is a policy? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 552-13(4): Policy on Contracting Former Employees

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said to the Member, I will check if there is a policy. Once I find it, then I will share it with him. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 553-13(4): Economic Development Officer for Broughton Island

Page 1355

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my Member's statement, we need an economic development officer in Broughton Island. I will be directing my question to the honourable Minister, Mr. Kakfwi, Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Is the Minister prepared to put a position of an economic development officer in Broughton Island in the near future? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 553-13(4): Economic Development Officer for Broughton Island

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, in the budget of the department, there are a certain number of positions allocated for communities. Not all communities are presently afforded these positions because of the limited dollars that we have and also because there is a limited amount of activity that could engage the full time services of such people. If Broughton Island has had this position and it is simply vacant at this time, then we would be prepared to do what we can to fill it.

If there is no position presently allocated to this community, then it would be difficult to do so unless there is some possibility to reallocate within existing resources. The department is presently drafting and has presented a draft business plan for consideration to the committee of this Legislature for approval in the coming year.

It is my view that it is in the context of the draft business plans, which contains a fairly comprehensive package for preparing for division. The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development has prepared a budget that looks at allocating a part of this department in preparation for division, that is, allocating senior management positions and preparing for the set up of a separate department in Nunavut in 1999. The flexibilities may be in that draft business plan. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 554-13(4): Discussions With Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Re: Anti-Fur Lobby

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to Mr. Kakfwi, the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. I would like to ask the Minister if he has had any discussions with Minister Stewart from DIAND regarding her position or actions that her department or government may be taking against the anti-fur lobby that is being created in Europe? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 554-13(4): Discussions With Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Re: Anti-Fur Lobby

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, there was an agreement reached in July between fur producing countries and the European union that will allow fur producing countries, namely, Canada, the United States and Russia to continue to export fur into the European countries for the next few years in exchange for an agreement that the use of the leg hold trap will be eventually phased out in all of those countries. The threat to ban the import of fur into the European countries by the European parliament has been averted once again. There is now an agreement to continue business as usual with some new conditions, which are not new to the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 554-13(4): Discussions With Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Re: Anti-Fur Lobby

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked this question of the Minister because I think the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada have an opportunity to send a strong message to the Europeans that this agreement, as the Minister stated, is only for a few years. Diamonds, if they are not sorted in their originating countries or the country of production, are usually sorted in London and Antwerp.

My question to the Minister is will he advise the federal Minister that this is one area where we may have a little more clout? I would like to think that we will not be putting up with the antics of the Europeans when we have a product that is produced in our country, and we can do some of the added value features onto it here in Canada. Will the Minister be committing that message to his federal counterpart? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. I am sorry, Mr. Henry, that was a new question. It is not a supplementary question to your first question. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 555-13(4): Relocation of Offenders to NWT Communities

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Justice. My colleagues have indicated to me that it was on the news that Mr. Desbiens decided to relocate elsewhere which is good news to the people of Fort Smith. I would like to commend the RCMP for taking the proactive approach they did. However, that means that other communities in the north could possibly be at risk. My question to the Minister is what options do we have available to us in situations like this to protect the women in the communities from possibly being victimized unwillingly by an individual with a very strong record of sexual abuse, violence and manslaughter in crimes against women? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Ng.

Page 1356

Return To Question 555-13(4): Relocation of Offenders to NWT Communities

**HON. KELVIN NG:**



Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the RCMP have discretion to disclose, through this public interest disclosure, an offender of a serious nature when they find out that they are going into a community. I think it is a judgment call for them, and it is a difficult decision at times because you have to balance off the public interest with the right of privacy issues of individuals, particularly if they have fulfilled their sentence, as would have been the case with Mr. Desbiens.

I think the precautions that have to be taken is that once the public interest disclosure is made, it heightens the awareness for the community so that individuals who would be at risk can take some necessary precautions not to expose themselves to a situation where they may become at risk with an individual. I think the RCMP, recognizing that an individual of this designation is coming back to the community, will more than likely have their own contingency plan on how they may beef up the situation to try to alleviate the concerns of the public, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 555-13(4): Relocation of Offenders to NWT Communities

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister be discussing this issue with the head of the RCMP to ensure that, if need be, if there is word that this individual may be going to another northern community, they will take the same proactive approach to ensure that people are warned and not put at risk. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 555-13(4): Relocation of Offenders to NWT Communities

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly that would be the case. I would be more than willing to do that. I would like to advise Members that prior to the RCMP releasing this public interest disclosure to Fort Smith, they were in discussions with our department, advising us of the situation and their intent to go this

route. This is the first time there has been an incident which necessitated using this public interest disclosure in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 556-13(4): Keewatin Health Review Report

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Can the Minister advise me as to whether his internal report will be made public in its entirety? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 556-13(4): Keewatin Health Review Report

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the report will be available to the public in its entirety tomorrow morning. As I said to the Member, prior to that, it will be made available to Members of this Legislature either late this afternoon or first thing in the morning. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 556-13(4): Keewatin Health Review Report

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise this House as to what terms of reference he instructed his deputy minister to follow while conducting this review?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 556-13(4): Keewatin Health Review Report

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have the specific terms of reference here verbatim. It is safe to say he was to review the comprehensiveness of the planned changes that both the Baffin Health Board and the Keewatin Regional Health Board were contemplating in shifting some of their contracted services to service their constituents, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 557-13(4): Listing of Federal Civil Servants

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for the Premier. The Premier concluded his statement today that Cabinet made the most of the past few months, but he also made reference to the agenda for change. The priority for that was first and foremost to secure our financial future. In my statement, I made reference to the fact that the north needs economic stimulation. I referred to the motion made last spring that the federal government should transfer any jobs related to the north to the north. Perhaps I could just make reference to the motion, Mr. Speaker. "We asked the Premier to communicate with the Prime Minister to request a comprehensive listing of all federal civil servant positions dedicated to policy, development and program in the Northwest Territories." I wonder if the Premier could tell us if that has transpired? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 557-13(4): Listing of Federal Civil Servants

Page 1357

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Devolution has been an ongoing file for the Government of the Northwest Territories. In the early part of the winter, we had meetings with our MP for the western Arctic, Ethel Blondin-Andrew and we started developing a strategy on devolution and the devolution of responsibilities from Ottawa. It made clear sense to us as a government that one of the first things we should

proceed on was the devolution of federal employees that have responsibilities to things that are happening in the Northwest Territories. There are approximately one hundred positions. At that time, we started working with our MP and with the Ministers involved in developing a strategy, to talk to the federal government on transferring those people to the Northwest Territories so that we can at least gain the economics of them purchasing housing units, spending their money living in the north, where decisions that they make affect northerners. They should be living here.

After that, we did go into Caucus of the whole, where the whole 24 Members were present, and Mr. Kakfwi and I had made a presentation on devolution. We let Members know at that time that we were proceeding with this issue and this initiative. It was after that Mr. Ootes raised it in a Member's statement in the House, as well as made a motion in the House, to encourage us to continue moving ahead on this issue. This is one of the major issues we spoke of with Ms. Stewart this summer when we met with her on the whole issue of devolution. Mr. Kakfwi is putting together a plan so that we can present it to Minister Stewart, as well as get the assistance of our two MPs from Nunavut and the western Arctic, to work with us on this issue. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 557-13(4): Listing of Federal Civil Servants

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize the government has to develop its plan and approach this in somewhat of a coordinated fashion, but I am concerned about what the federal government is doing to stimulate the economy here in the Northwest Territories. Frankly, they are not doing a thing. I think it is time we get onto this subject and tell the federal government to start doing something for us. We need those jobs up here, we need that in this community and we need it in Inuvik. You heard Mr. Roland earlier. Mr. Premier, we asked you to write to the Prime Minister to get an inventory of federal positions. We did not ask you to just sit and negotiate with our federal MP and the federal minister. I want an inventory of all the federal positions in the north. Will you commit to provide that?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin

Further Return To Question 557-13(4): Listing of Federal Civil Servants

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not about to go hold a gun at somebody's head in Ottawa and say give me that information. Let us get realistic here, Mr. Ootes. It takes two parties to negotiate. It takes two parties to come to an agreement. We are working with the federal government. We are working with the Indian Affairs to pursue this. We feel confident that we will pursue this so that it will benefit the north. We are moving on it at a fairly rapid pace. Whether or not Mr. Ootes thinks we are doing enough or not is irrelevant to me at this point, Mr. Speaker. What is relevant to me is that we approach it in a manner that will get results in the end, instead of blowing off a bunch of steam. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 557-13(4): Listing of Federal Civil Servants

**MR. OOTES:**

I am not blowing off steam. If that is the implication, that is fine. I think that is what is needed sometimes, Mr. Speaker. I am tired of hearing comments that we are working on this, we are doing that. In the meantime, we are losing jobs all over the north. We need some action urgently. I am sorry, Mr. Premier, if I am blowing off steam. But you have to appreciate there is pressure on us in these communities, and therefore we need to do something. In our motion, we asked that this be done by September 30th. From what I am hearing the Premier state, he has not done a thing with respect to our motion. He is working on it, I will acknowledge that. Mr. Speaker, will the Premier write to the Prime Minister to get an inventory done of northern jobs that are located outside the north? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 557-13(4): Listing of Federal Civil Servants

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know the north in general, not only Mr. Ootes' riding, has unemployment. I have a lot in my constituency as well. Once again, I will say that we are going to approach this in a manner that is professional, and at this time I do not think that it is proper to write to the Prime Minister to ask him to catalogue the positions that are in DIAND for the Northwest Territories. We are dealing with it with the Minister responsible. As far as sitting back and doing nothing, we started talking about this issue, we started working on this issue before he even raised the issue in the House, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 557-13(4): Listing of Federal Civil Servants

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the government may have been working. The government is working on a lot of areas, but I do not see anything happening. I have not seen a thing happening. I have not had a report on this. Nothing is happening. What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, we had a motion passed by all these Members, and yet nothing has been done with respect to that motion. When will we get action on our motion? Thank you.

Page 1358

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 557-13(4): Listing of Federal Civil Servants

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated earlier in the reply to Mr. Ootes' question about what we are doing as a government. Whether he sees it or not, that is completely up to him. Whether he hears it or not is completely up to him, but we are moving ahead. We are talking to the Minister of Indian Affairs. We are dealing with the issue. Mr. Kakfwi is going to deal with the Minister of Indian Affairs as well. Issues such as this do not get concluded over night, Mr. Speaker, so I

hope the Member will understand that we, as a government, are moving ahead aggressively on this issue. Once the issue is concluded, hopefully then we can make a progress report. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions, Mr. Roland.

Question 558-13(4): Liquor Contract in Inuvik

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister responsible for the Liquor Commission, Mr. Todd. Mr. Speaker, earlier in the summer, there was much concern raised in my community with a contract that was being let out for the liquor store especially in the area of sales and the hours the store would be open. Mr. Speaker, many of the concerns raised to me were why are we doing this at a time when we just closed down an alcohol facility? There is much concern raised over the fact that there was little input. The majority of the people I talked with said they were not aware of it other than a call for proposals coming into The Drum. I took up the concern and addressed it with the Minister and tried to work with him throughout the summer. I was disappointed to hear some of the things that had happened. I am wondering if the Minister could fully inform me as to what has taken place since our last discussion on the liquor contract in Inuvik? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 558-13(4): Liquor Contract in Inuvik

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did listen to the wise wisdom received from my honourable colleague, who I frequently have to look up to in this House. We did listen, we did act and, even as we speak, we are reducing the hours with the contractor to ensure that we meet the demands and requests made by his community. The request to reduce the liquor store hours in Inuvik is a legitimate one. Bravo.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 558-13(4): Liquor Contract in Inuvik

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that would be good news to the community of Inuvik. A little late and a little less than what they would have liked to have done, but there are not too many opportunities that I have had to say thanks to a Minister for working on an issue. When will these changes take effect? When will they go into place? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd

Further Return To Question 558-13(4): Liquor Contract in Inuvik

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

It is never too late to make decisions. What is important is that we make them. We have made the decision based upon the advice that we have been given by the honourable colleague and the uproar which occurred in his constituency with respect to expanding the liquor hours in Inuvik, which appeared to some to be a contradiction to the fact that we closed down the drug and alcohol centre. I want to assure you that was not the case. We have taken steps, again, as we speak, this afternoon, to sit down with the contractor to make sure we meet our obligations to him under the contract and at the same time try to respond to the concerns with respect to his constituency, and in particular my honourable colleague, who would like to see reduced hours on the sale of liquor. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 558-13(4): Liquor Contract in Inuvik

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tell me what is the timing of the changes? I am thankful that he is able to expand on the answers that he has taken the concerns of Inuvik seriously. There are changes coming. I am thankful for that, and I think many of the community

members will be thankful as well. I just want to confirm the time that this will take place. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 558-13(4): Liquor Contract in Inuvik

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I always take the concerns of Inuvik and my colleague in particular seriously. I never take them any other way. I believe we are addressing the question as we speak. Hopefully we will have it resolved by this evening and he will be able to say to his constituency I have done what you have asked me to do by persuading the Finance Minister in making the appropriate adjustments with the hours of opening of the Inuvik liquor store. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 559-13(4): Diamond Sorting Employment Levels

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to Mr. Todd as it is related to a financial aspect of the diamond industry. I understand that you have available to your government independent information regarding the number of individuals that could be employed in a diamond valuating and

Page 1359

sorting facility if it was in the north. I believe you have information from the numbers that would be working in such a facility in other countries. I would ask you to give me some information regarding that because the industry over the last couple of days has suggested that the number of 50 in a sorting facility seems extremely high, and they are suggesting 15 to 20. Could the Minister provide some information as to independent reports he has had as to the numbers that we could expect from such a diamond valuation and sorting facility in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 559-13(4): Diamond Sorting Employment Levels

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Speaker, as they say in politics, seeing is believing. I did take the time to spend public money to travel to Africa three years ago and take a look at a diamond sorting facility in Botswana in the community of Gaborone. There was a diamond sorting facility there that employed approximately 500 people. I have been told recently by the industry that this was a political decision because these people control the diamonds. I say well then it is a political decision in the north, because I like to think that we control the diamonds. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 559-13(4): Diamond Sorting Employment Levels

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also understand that some countries who have diamond production, particularly South Africa, currently produce around 400,000 carats a year outside of the De Beers production. I also understand they have to offer a percentage of those diamonds for sale or tender before they are exported. Has the Minister considered this as an avenue of generating revenue for the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 559-13(4): Diamond Sorting Employment Levels

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I think you have to put it in context, Mr. Speaker. Up until recently, the De Beers group of companies controlled approximately 80 percent of the world's diamonds. As you know, there was a bit of a blip the last year or so with respect to the Russian diamonds. In my discussions with De Beers recently in London, England, Sir Oppenheimer indicated to me they were going to make an arrangement with the Russians. I believe they have done that.

It is important to understand that where the companies sell the diamonds really is a reflection of the kinds of value added or tax concessions that you can make. In Botswana, I was speaking to Mr. Gallatti, who is the general manager of Depswana, which is a joint venture, who is also the former Finance Minister of the Government of Botswana. He indicated to me that one of the ways in which he took his royalty and tax regime was through what he called diamonds in kind. In other words, he took about 20 percent production. Based on that, he created a subsidiary industry by creating some value added components to the diamond industry.

I think it would be fair to say the industry was not enamoured with his position, but that is the position he took. That did create a variety of other jobs outside of the sorting of diamonds for marketing and valuation purposes. Does that answer the question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 559-13(4): Diamond Sorting Employment Levels

**MR. HENRY:**

Mr. Speaker, that was extremely good information, but what I am looking for is has the Minister considered approaching the diamond producers, encouraging them to offer some diamonds for sale in the NWT? I believe there are excellent opportunities for travel to the territories, at least in discussions I had with buyers in Toronto. They say they would be more than happy to spend two hours on a plane to come to the NWT, as opposed to eight hours going to Antwerp. They suggested if there was a good and constant supply, they would come here to buy their diamonds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 559-13(4): Diamond Sorting Employment Levels

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Frankly, the energies of this government, in particular Mr. Kakfwi and myself, has been to try to influence the new public policy that is going to be put into place with respect to how the

industry is going to operate through the mining regulations that have currently been developed.

Our energies have primarily been focused on getting our political allies in Ottawa to understand the need for diamond evaluation and sorting to be done in the Northwest Territories. It really has not gone beyond that with respect to any energies we put into it with the industry.

The energy at this level has been to try to get another point of view across to the political masses in Ottawa who will be developing the mining regulations which will determine the rules of engagement by which the industry is going to operate. That has really been where our energy has been put at this time. I have not had the opportunity to discuss the matter with Mr. Kakfwi or the industry. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 559-13(4): Diamond Sorting Employment Levels

Page 1360

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if it could be demonstrated by the industry that indeed it did cost additional funds on their part to offer diamonds for sale in the Northwest Territories, would the Minister consider subsidizing the potential for offering diamonds for sale in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

That is a hypothetical question, when you are asking a Minister to guess. Perhaps you might want to rephrase your question, Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you. I believe the Minister heard the question. Will he consider providing funds if it could be demonstrated that there was a long term benefit to the Northwest Territories by providing incentives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The question is still the same. Perhaps the Member might want to rephrase the question as to would he consider incentive. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had asked the Minister earlier about how some countries offer diamonds for sale in their country. If it could be demonstrated there was value to the Northwest Territories, would the Minister consider offering incentives to have that work performed in the territories?

Further Return To Question 559-13(4): Diamond Sorting Employment Levels

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

First of all, and I stand to be corrected, the one thing I did learn on these trips that I have made frequently to Antwerp, London, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Gabarone...I do love Cape Town, Jane.

--Laughter

What really struck me the most when I travelled in these countries was the inordinate wealth that is being generated from diamonds because of two fundamental things, vanity and greed. If you ask any of the diamentaires, they will tell you that. When somebody mentions to me are we going to subsidize the industry, I have some difficulty when you have a 50 percent return on investment, and they expect to get all their equity back in five to seven years, and then ask the governments for subsidies.

I say to the industry it is a cost of doing business, and they should pay it accordingly and make sure when they are developing their balance sheet that the balance sheet reflects the expenditure necessary to create jobs and opportunities for northerners. If that means the reduction in their bottom line, then that is the cost of doing business in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 560-13(4): Vacation Travel Assistance

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. This government eliminated vacation

travel assistance for the teachers, the Union of Northern Workers, the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public service. My question for the Premier is are there employees of this government still receiving vacation travel assistance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 560-13(4): Vacation Travel Assistance

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not that I am aware of.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 560-13(4): Vacation Travel Assistance

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Premier is not aware of employees receiving vacation travel assistance, my supplementary question to him is would he look into it and get back to this House in the next couple of days, as there is information provided to me that I have spoken to him about concerning some people still getting vacation travel assistance? My supplementary question to the Premier is will he come back to this House and tell us how many employees are still receiving vacation travel assistance when everyone else has lost it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 560-13(4): Vacation Travel Assistance

Page 1361

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do recall when Mr. Picco raised that in Iqaluit, about one contract employee who may be receiving vacation travel assistance. I will get him that information later on today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 560-13(4): Vacation Travel Assistance

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also understand there are some other employees in the Northwest Territories who work for this government and are still receiving vacation travel assistance through whatever contract purpose. I am asking the Minister to look into all government departments, then come back to this House and let us know how many employees are still receiving vacation travel assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 560-13(4): Vacation Travel Assistance

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be pleased to look into it if Mr. Picco can provide us with whatever information he has to assist us to look into it.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 561-13(4): Recruitment of Physicians

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the last session, I had inquired of the Minister of Health what he was prepared to do with his department with respect to the recruitment of physicians in the north. I think the situation over the summer has further eroded and we have seen a departure of more physicians from the north and from Yellowknife. I understand some communities are completely without doctors right now. I would like to know what the department has done in terms of putting together a comprehensive package of incentives and inducements which might attract physicians to practice in northern communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 561-13(4): Recruitment of Physicians

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one thing that this review of the Baffin Regional Health Board services and the Keewatin Health Board services has outlined and highlighted to us as a department is the issue of physician recruitment and retention, particularly in respect to the difficulties the Keewatin Regional Health Board is having in signing on full time general practitioners.

One of the recommendations that is coming forward is the Department of Health and Social Services, in conjunction with the NWT Medical Association and the NWT Health Care Association, within a three month period develop a physician recruitment and retention plan for the Northwest Territories. Hopefully this will guide us in filling the vacancies throughout the Northwest Territories, in identifying the issues and obstacles in the way and in recommending some solutions as to how to remove any impediments from fully staffing up physician services throughout the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 561-13(4): Recruitment of Physicians

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that in the interim, some community health boards and regional health boards have resorted to hiring placement agencies in southern Canada to find positions for them, signing them on. For a one year commitment, I believe is at a cost of around \$10,000 per position. I see that as a rather expensive alternative and I think it shows how desperate the situation is. How soon does the Minister think this paper and recommendations will be coming forward?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 561-13(4): Recruitment of Physicians

**HON. KELVIN NG:**



Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I indicated that they would be given guidelines to try to develop some plans within a three-month period. I would anticipate the end of this calendar year, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 562-13(4): Diamond Sorting/Valuation Facilities

**MR. OOTES:**

Mr. Speaker, my questions will be to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd with regard to the diamond sorting and valuation facilities. There has been reference in the Premier's statement and Mr. Todd has spoken on this, I just wonder if he could tell us and brief us on what action this government is taking from here. I know there have been some references already but it may be worthwhile for the Minister to perhaps repeat that so we get a clear picture of where we are going from here. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 562-13(4): Diamond Sorting/Valuation Facilities

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Okay, let me try to spell out in a pragmatic, slow concise way. There are two issues that this government is dealing with right now. The one issue is in the diamond sorting valuation and, as I said to you earlier, that is under the auspices of the Honourable Jane Stewart, Minister for DIAND. The other one, we are looking at the tax window that the former Minister of Finance for the Government of the Northwest Territories managed to get us. That is under the auspices of the Honourable Paul Martin.

On the site of the diamond sorting valuation, I have made it abundantly clear, as Mr. Kakfwi has, that we are not happy with the development of the current public policy that is under way by Mr. Lazarovich as it relates to diamond sorting valuation. That is clear. It has been said in plain, blunt and simple language. We have also indicated to him that we want to be involved in the final details, if you want, in the writing of the diamond mining regulations that are coming under review at the present time. We must also bear in mind

that we have limited jurisdiction over this. It requires persuasive debate with our political colleagues in Ottawa to try to get the changes that are necessary that both Mr. Kakfwi and I feel need to be done. That is underway as we speak, and we are trying to meet with Ms. Stewart and Mr. Martin later on this month. That is underway right now, and we are speaking of our position clearly.

On the issue of how do we increase our tax revenues so it does not impede on our gross expenditure base, I do not yet have, in fairness to Mr. Martin, a clear position from him whether he is prepared to put a table together to discuss an expansion of the tax window that we currently have. But

Page 1362

certainly I have said to him that if he wants to find a method, as said to me, to make the north less dependent on transfer payments from the south, then this surely has a method in which he can do it and what you can do where there would be no additional cost to the federal government. Because the revenues that are being generated from the diamond mine are incremental revenues that he has not got in his balance sheet at the present time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 562-13(4): Diamond Sorting/Valuation Facilities

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand for the life of the mine, the 25 year life of one mine, we potentially can have two perhaps up to four mines, the other two perhaps being smaller - that the royalties for the federal government for one potential mine is possibly in the neighbourhood of \$2.4 billion. I wonder if the Minister could tell us what is the financial benefit to this government if nothing changes in the financial arrangements?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 562-13(4): Diamond Sorting/Valuation Facilities

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Well, unfortunately Mr. Speaker, first of all my colleague is correct. His numbers are similar to ours. It is approximately \$2.4 billion in the life cycle of this one BHP mine which everybody is focused on right now and I agree with him. There is a distinct possibility that we could be looking at two, maybe three, and certainly would encourage it, as the Premier said earlier today the comments made by our colleagues and friends at Diavik that they are prepared to work closely with us to ensure that there will be some maximum benefits to northerners on their mine. Out of the \$2.4 billion, in theory we would get \$800 million but in reality because the way our formula is set up because we are penalized for the tax revenues, we probably get about \$130 million over the life cycle of the mine, which is \$6 million which is roughly about a school and a half. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 562-13(4): Diamond Sorting/Valuation Facilities

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It appears that the discussions with the federal government are ongoing at the moment, but there is some time frame here because the regulation review is being undertaken and we are participating in that, I understand, or at least being invited to participate. I wonder if the Minister could tell us what is our time frame window of opportunity here?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 562-13(4): Diamond Sorting/Valuation Facilities

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

There are two issues, two Ministers. You know that it may appear that the cross-departmental boundaries in reality, I think we know right now that the mining regulations are currently being written by the bureaucracy in Ottawa. We have indicated to Ms. Stewart and to Mr. Martin that we hope we will be given ample opportunity to review and to contribute to the final outcome of what those regulations are going to be. That is what we said. We made that clear. I am not talking about saying here is a minor regulations, have a look at them. We are going to do it anyway. I

am saying that either we have serious participation in the partnership here or we are in a difficult protracted political argument. That is what we are saying to them on that site. That I would suggest to you is imminent. I think it is probably, I would not want a time line on it right now. I will have to talk to my staff, but I know they are being undertaken right now and discussions are underway with respect to our departments and the federal government.

On the increase in the tax window, I addressed that with Mr. Martin last Thursday and at this time I do not have an indication, first of all, he is going to accept our political argument that this makes us less dependent at no cost to the federal government or not. I am hoping that we can get a response to that within the next two to three weeks. We are up and ready to go if he is prepared to sit down around that if you want a tax table to see if we can negotiate a degree of revenues for the Northwest Territories and ultimately to make us less dependent on the transfer payment we have received due to the benevolence of southern Canada. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 563-13(4): Inuvik Transition House

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time would be directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Recently, Mr. Speaker, it has been made known that the transition house in Inuvik is in the red. I addressed this concern the previous year with the Minister trying to see if there was any support for them. With the Minister's announcement in Rankin Inlet when he attended the Medical Association meetings, he made reference to some funding that would be made available, \$2 million to the health boards of Keewatin, Baffin and Dogrib as well as \$2 million available to other health boards. I am wondering if this funding can be made available to the transition house out of this funding.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 563-13(4): Inuvik Transition House

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That funding that has been mentioned in public statements on this \$4 million reinvestment fund, there will be funds available to regional Health and Social Service Boards through specific proposals on a co-shared basis. I guess I cannot make any commitment until the parameters and the guidelines for the funding are finalized and put out to the boards and we have some input from them on what they would deem to be the priority areas.

Page 1363

We have outlined five specific areas where we want some strategic reinvestment that being mental health, public health, healthy children, human resource support and supported living. I think once the parameters for the program is out there, then it will give boards and communities the opportunity to discuss where they feel they can provide their priorities in putting together applications, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Question period is over. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Hamilton. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Mr. Speaker, I have written questions that I wanted to address not returns, written questions. If I can ask for unanimous consent to return to written questions, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Yellowknife South is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 7, written questions. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Henry, you have the unanimous consent.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 34-13(4): Status of Diamond Valuation Facilities

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a written question to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwj, on the status of diamond valuation facilities in other countries as well as potential for such a facility in Northwest Territories.

Could the Minister please provide me with information and facts on some of the major world diamond producers such as Namibia, Botswana, Australia, South Africa, and Russia. Specifically,

1) Where are the diamonds evaluated and sorted for each of the aforementioned countries?

2) What type of facilities are used for diamond sorting and valuation and who owns the buildings this work is performed in?

3) Is the Minister aware of the approximate number of workers employed in these facilities such as sorters, security, maintenance, etc.?

4) What is the level of training or education qualifications involved for the sorters in diamond evaluation facilities?

5) Can the Minister estimate the time-frame required to set up such a facility in the NWT?

6) Could the Minister calculate the cumulative years of knowledge and experience of staff in his department as well as other GNWT departments which they would have on the subject of diamond valuation sorting?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return to Written Question 26-13(4): Chief Julius School Gymnasium

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

Mr. Speaker, return to Written Question 26-13(4) asked by Mr. Krutko to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on the Chief Julius School Gymnasium.

Later today I will table a document entitled School Projects Enhanced Beyond Capital Standards and Criteria that will detail the projects which received funding from third parties such as municipal governments, local education authorities or private sector partners.

Return to Written Question 28-13(4): Electronic Access to Information

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

Return to Written Question 28-13(4) asked by Mrs. Groenewegen to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on electronic access to information.

Electronic Access to Information

The ability to access information electronically from all communities for the benefits of Northern residents was clearly identified as a priority by participants in the "Connecting the North" symposium. The symposium connected all NWT communities for three days of live presentations and consultation on communication and information needs and was broadcast interactively on TVNC in the fall of 1994.

Business cases prepared for the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Health and social Services clearly demonstrated that high-speed electronic communications networks have the potential to save money and improve current services offered. Based on these projected savings and the potential for improving some vital services at the same time, the Government of the Northwest Territories established access to high-speed communications networks from all communities as a priority.

The value of recreational reading as a literacy tool was given equal weight to all other aspects of the department's programs and services. It was considered that high-speed digital communications networks would provide enhanced access to recreational reading materials (in addition to many other beneficial services) for those communities lacking public library facilities. Further, as it was apparent that current funding levels for all areas of government, including libraries, would be declining, it was considered that some of the inevitable losses could be mitigated through use of high-speed communications.

Page 1364

Return to Written Question 29-13(4): Revised Job Evaluation Process

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

Return to Written Question 29-13(4) asked by Mr. Roland to the Chairman of the Financial Management Board on the information on job evaluation process.

Information on Job Evaluation Process

1. Purpose

The purpose of job evaluation is to measure the relative value of jobs within an organization, as a basis for setting equitable pay levels for employees. To measure that relative value of jobs, the measurement standard applied should be the same for all jobs.

The current Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) job classification system (which was established in the mid-1970s) uses different standards for different job classes, which was a common approach at that time. The new job evaluation plan that is currently being developed for implementation is intended to measure the value of all jobs in Government of the Northwest Territories against the same standards and regardless of job classes.

2. Impact

Under the current Government of the Northwest Territories classification system, it may have occurred that certain jobs were classified lower or higher than others of the same "market value", simply because different standards were applied for different job classes. These differences in classification may not be confirmed by the new job evaluation system. In that regard, the new system may have an impact on the salary level of selected jobs. Negotiations within the mandate of collective bargaining will determine the impact on salary levels and existing employee wages.

3. Assembly

The Assembly will be fully informed when the new job evaluation process is completed and the impact of the plan prior to implementation.

Return to Written Question 30-13(4): Outstanding CMHC Debt

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

Return to Written Question 30-13(4) asked by Mr. Henry to the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation on outstanding CMHC debt.

## Outstanding CMHC Debt

Region	Units	Total\$
Baffin District	570	27,184,078.02
Inuvik District	389	17,811,472.11
Keewatin District	383	17,014,310.94
Kitikmeot District	370	19,115,371.23
North Slave District	123	5,380,307.81
South Slave District	103	4,753,314.15
TOTAL	1,938	91,258,854.26

Return to Written Question 31-13(4): Cost of Government of the Northwest Territories Staff Reductions

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

Return to Written Question 31-13(4) asked by Mr. Ootes to the Chairman of the Financial Management Board on cost of GNWT staff reductions.

Cost of Government of the Northwest Territories Staff Reductions

The estimated cost of severance pay for staff reductions for the period of April 1, 1996 to September 29, 1997 is eight point six (8.6) million dollars for three hundred and eighty-eight (388) employees. This figure is calculated based on each employee's annual salary, number of years of continuous service and the layoff option selected by the employee prior to termination.

The payments for various benefits such as ultimate removal that result from employee terminations due to lay-off are processed by each department. This information is not available centrally. To determine actual employer payments and associated costs each department would be required to thoroughly review every individual employee file.

Return to Written Question 32-13(4): Financing for Legislative Assembly Building

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

Return to Written Question 32-13(4) asked by Mr. Picco to the chairman of the financial board on the financing for the Legislative Assembly Building.

Financing for Legislative Assembly Building

The total dollar amount to construct the Legislative Assembly Building was \$ 25,034,000.

The breakdown in construction,

Financing/Development and Tenant Improvements is as follows:

- NWT Legislative Assembly Building Society 1,298,000
- Management (Public Works and Services) 36,000
- Consultant Services 2,550,000
- Construction 18,750,000
- Tenant Improvements 1,980,000
- Artwork 420,000
- Total 25,034,000

The project was funded as follows:

Page 1365

- NWT Legislative Assembly Building Society 14,900,000
- GNWT (Vote 2 Capital) 10,024,000
- Gifts 110,000
- Total 25,034,000

Return to Written Question 33-13(4): Availability of Legal Aid for Family Law Issues

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

Return to Written Question 33-13(4) asked by Mr. Krutko to the Minister of Justice on the availability of legal aid for family law issues.

Availability of Legal Aid for Family Law Issues

The Legal Services Board does not normally provide a lawyer for maintenance enforcement proceedings. In these proceedings the Court is enquiring into the availability of the individual to make payments which have been previously ordered by a court. Usually there are no legal issues in these proceedings.

However, the board may choose to authorize a lawyer representing a legal aid recipient to deal with child support and maintenance issues in court. When the circumstances do not necessitate an immediate authorization, the board may decline to make such an authorization unless a lawyer supplies a written opinion stating that it is reasonable under the circumstances to proceed. The Executive Director of the Legal Services Board must determine the reasonableness of any matter, taking into account the possibility of success, the cost of the legal services and the results which might be obtained.

Persons seeking child support and maintenance and those responding to applications for child support and maintenance have the same access to legal aid.

The following figures include all approved legal aid cases that have a child support process entered for the corresponding fiscal year. This information is available only from April 1, 1994, when use of the Legal Aid Information system was begun.

122 men and 467 women for 1994/95, 95 men and 345 women for 1995/96, 83 men and 296 women for 1996/97, and for the current fiscal year there have been 20 men and 82 women who have been approved for legal aid in the area of maintenance, as of June.

A person who is financially ineligible for legal aid may of course hire a lawyer to assist them. Other actions in regards to legal counselling for those who are ineligible for legal aid are as follows:

A person who does not have a lawyer has the right to appear in court and speak for themselves. They should always do this rather than miss court.

Some legal assistance may be obtained from the LawLine operated by volunteer lawyers and the Legal Services Board.

Many lawyers in private practice in the family law area are willing to give a person an initial interview without charge.

In Territorial Court, it may be possible to obtain limited assistance from a court worker employed by one of the legal services centres.

The lawyers employed in the five regional legal services centres may be able to provide summary legal advice depending on their time commitments.

And finally, a person facing maintenance enforcement proceedings can seek on their own to have enforcement suspended, first through negotiation with the Maintenance Enforcement Office, and secondly by speaking for themselves in court.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS**

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Social Programs has considered Bills 3, 4, 5, and 6 and wish to report that Bill 5 is ready for committee of the whole and that Bills 3, 4 and 6 are ready for committee of the whole as amended and reprinted. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Infrastructure has considered Bill 19 and wishes to report that Bill 19 is ready for committee of the whole.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents.

**ITEM 13: TABELING OF DOCUMENTS**

Tabled Document 93-13(4): Report of the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission, 1997

**MR. SPEAKER:**

In accordance with the provision of section 24(5) of part 2 of the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act, I wish to table the Report of the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission dated June 30, 1997. Tabling of documents. Mr. Dent.

Tabled Document 94-13(4) School Projects Enhanced Beyond Capital Standards and Criteria

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled School Projects Enhanced Beyond Capital Standards in Criteria. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Picco.

Page 1366

Tabled Document 95-13(4): Human Resource Manual Excerpt Regarding Conflict of Interest - Outside Employment

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Ethics Conflict of Interest Outside Employment of this Government, Human Resource Manual, section 003.

Tabled Document 96-13(4): Manager's Handbook Excerpt Regarding Personal Gain and the Use of Information, Facilities or Property

**MR. PICCO:**

I would also like to table the Managers' Handbook on Personal Gain and the Use of Information, Facilities or Property of this government.

Tabled Document 97-13(4): NWT Medical Association Response to the Med-Emerg Report on NWT Health and Social Services Draft Strategic Report

**MR. PICCO:**

I would also like to table the Northwest Territories Medical Association response to the Med-Emerg report. Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Tabling of documents, Mr. Ootes.

Tabled Document 98-13(4): Correspondence Regarding the Transfer of Federal Employees to the North

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table three letters in support of the motion to transfer a federal employee, a motion that was made last spring. They are from George Roach of Inuvik, Mayor Jack Rowe of Hay River and Mayor Dennis Bevington of the town of Fort Smith who says, "Ideas such as this by Mr. Ootes in the committee are outstanding and can be ..."

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Shameless, shameless, shameless.

--Laughter

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Tabling of documents. Mr. O'Brien.

Tabled Document 99-13(4): Letter From Commissioner Maksagak - Call for Public Inquiry on the Keewatin Regional Health Board

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a letter response from the Commissioner regarding the request for a public inquiry.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents.

Tabled Document 100-13(4): Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner, 1995-96

**MR. SPEAKER:**

In accordance with the provision of section 23 of the Official Languages Act, I wish to table the Annual Report of the Language Commissioner of the Northwest Territories covering the fiscal year 1995, 1996.

Tabled Document 101-13(4): Auditor's Report - Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Fund (March 31, 1997)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

In accordance with the provision of section 21(1) of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Act, I wish to table the Auditor's Report of the Financial Statement as of March 31, 1997. Tabling of documents, Mr. Clerk.

Tabled Document 102-13(4): Responses to Petitions 22, 23, 23 and 25

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to or according to section (10), I wish to table the following responses to Petition 22-13(4) presented by Mr. Miltenberger and responded to by the Chairman of the Financial Management Board.

Response to Petition 23-13(4) presented by Mr. Krutko and responded to by the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Response to Petition 24-13(4) presented by Mr. Steen and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Response to Petition 25-13(4) presented by Mr. Ng and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Mr. Barnabas.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 20-13(4): Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission Report to Committee of the Whole

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 3, 1997, I move the following motion:

Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, that Tabled Document 93-13(4) the Report of the Nunavut Boundaries Commission, to be moved into committee of the whole as the first item of business on Friday. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 24: An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 3, 1997, I will move that Bill 24, An Act

Page 1367

to Amend the Financial Administration Act be read for the first time.

Bill 25: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1997-98

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 3, 1997 I will move that Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1997-98 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 21: An Act to Amend the Companies Act

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have three notices of motion. Mr. Speaker I give notice that on Friday, October 3, 1997 I will move that Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Companies Act, be read for the first time.

Bill 22: An Act to Amend the Corrections Act

I will also move that Bill 22, An Act to Amend the Corrections Act, be read for the first time.

Bill 23: An Act to Amend the Elections Act

I also move that Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Elections Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Mr. Barnabas.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to make a motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for High Arctic is seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion on the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission report. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Barnabas, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 20-13(4): Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission Report to Committee of the Whole

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my motion deals with Report of Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission to the committee of the whole.

WHEREAS the Report of Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission was presented to the Speaker on June 30, 1997;



AND WHEREAS the Report of Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission was tabled on October 1, 1997 ;

AND WHEREAS the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission report should be discussed and recommendations made in accordance with the section 24(5) of Part 2 of the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act ;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik that Tabled Document 93-13(4), Report of the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission, to be moved to the committee of the whole for the first item of the business on Friday, October 3, 1997. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All of those in favour? All of those opposed? Motion is carried. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of Bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

**ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

Mr. Speaker, the meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations at 4:00 p.m. this afternoon. Also, at 6:00 p.m. today, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow morning, Standing Committee on Social Programs, at 11:00 a.m., Ordinary Members' Caucus.

Orders of the day for Thursday, October 2, 1997:

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

8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills

Page 1368

- Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act

18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 2, 1997, at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT