



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Before proceeding with the orders of the day, I would like to inform the House of the passing yesterday of Mrs. Effie Krutko, nee MacDonald, the mother of Mr. David Krutko, the Member for MacKenzie Delta. Mrs. Krutko passed away yesterday after a very long battle with cancer. I understand that she was able to travel to the Delta earlier this year which allowed her to see family and friends before she was returned to the hospital here in Yellowknife. Our prayers are with David and his family today. Also, deepest sympathy to my constituent Evelyn Krutko for the loss of her mother. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Todd

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 100-13(4): Sessional Statement - Fiscal Update

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today and formally welcome Members back to the House after the summer recess. I would like to take this opportunity to provide the Members with more details on the fiscal position of the Government of the Northwest Territories and several of the key issues that the Premier addressed in his sessional statement yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that we are on course to meet or exceed the deficit

reduction targets established in our fiscal recovery plan. Last winter, the government anticipated an annual deficit for 1996-97 of \$38 million. With our books for last year now closed, we can report that the deficit dropped to \$12 million. While this result is subject to final audit, this reduced 1996-97 deficit means our accumulated deficit rose to only \$41 million rather than the \$65 million we forecast.

Mr. Speaker, in last February's Budget Address, I announced that this government would balance its budget for the first time in four years. Preliminary figures for the year indicate that we are on course to meet our target with a small surplus of \$9 million. This small surplus will be applied against our accumulated deficit.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that our fiscal recovery would not have been reached without the co-operation and commitment of all Members of this House. I want to thank them for that. However, I also want to stress that while these forecasts are indeed encouraging, it is important that we all recognize the need to remain vigilant and stay the course with our fiscal recovery plan to ensure that we leave the emerging new governments of Nunavut and the Western Territory and future generations with the fiscal stability that results from a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, I would like to state that this Government is fully committed to the principle of pay equity, and is determined to negotiate a resolution to the issue. We are currently meeting with the Union of Northern Workers to identify issues that can be resolved through negotiations. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we are in the process of implementing a new gender-neutral job evaluation system and I am confident with the support of the UNW that we will finalize the implementation of this system.

Mr. Speaker, as I have stated many times in this House, it is the preference of the Government of the Northwest Territories to find a negotiated resolution to this matter with the Union of Northern Workers. However, it would be remiss of me if I did not stress that it is incumbent on this government to ensure the settlement we make is affordable and does not result in further large-scale program or position reductions; clearly that is not our desire.

Mr. Speaker, while it is important that we remain vigilant in our efforts on the debt reduction side, it is important that we balance this with investments in key program areas in the social and economic

development envelopes. Mr. Speaker, Members of this House have noted on many occasions the importance of ensuring that we continue to deliver essential program such as health and social services to our residents. It was for this reason that funding for the social envelope was maintained and, in fact, increased while all other program areas underwent significant budget reductions over the past two years.

As a further step, Mr. Speaker, we have recently identified \$4 million to reinvest into our health care system to target strategic reinvestments towards long term health care of our residents. My colleague, the Honourable Kelvin Ng, will be providing more details on this funding later during the session.

Page 1370

Mr. Speaker, during the last session, Members will recall that I announced a reinvestment of \$16 million in a Northern Employment Strategy designed to stimulate economic development and job creation in our northern communities. Mr. Speaker, while this strategy was only launched several months ago and departments are still at the implementation stage for a number of the programs, I am pleased to provide this House with a progress report on the results of the strategy to date.

- A total of 46,000 work weeks of employment have been stimulated, this is the equivalent of 1,150 full time jobs;
- Over \$9 million has been invested through equity and partnership contributions towards projects;
- Over \$6 million in debt financing programs has been provided to the private sector to finance business expansion projects that stimulate economic growth in our communities; and
- As a result of our financial support to employers to hire summer students and youth, over 807 young people have been provided with employment opportunities this summer.

Mr. Speaker, the Northern Employment Strategy represents a significant shift in how this government approaches economic development and job creation. It focuses on developing co-ordinated approaches to economic development in creative partnership with the private sector, communities and regional based organizations.

I would like to congratulate my colleagues, the Honourable Charles Dent, Minister of Education,

Culture and Employment, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and the Honourable Maniok Thompson, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs as well as all Members of this House for their efforts in making this program a success.

Mr. Speaker, as the Premier has stated on many occasions, the development of our non-renewable resource sector represents our single most important opportunity for sustainable economic growth in the Northwest Territories. With this said, we are on the brink of the most significant period of non-renewable resource development in the history of the Northwest Territories with the development of one and perhaps more diamond mines over the next decade. Mr. Speaker, finding ways to maximize the employment and business opportunities resulting from the development of northern diamonds remains one of the key priorities of this government. The first step in the process was the negotiation of a socio-economic agreement with BHP for both the construction and operational phases of this project. The second step is ensuring that the north maximize its economic potential from the production of northern diamonds. Mr. Speaker, the one aspect of this economic potential that has received the most debate is the extent to which valuation and sorting is done in the Northwest Territories. As the Premier stated yesterday, the position of the Northwest Territories with respect to this issue is clear and unequivocal.

It is the position of the Government of the Northwest Territories:

- that diamonds mined in the Northwest Territories must be valued and sorted in a manner that provides an accurate value for royalty and taxation purposes and maximize the economic potential for the Northwest Territories;
- that the sorting and valuation facility or facilities must be located in an NWT community, off the mine site; and that potential NWT manufacturers be given the opportunity to purchase diamond 'rough' to maximize the economic potential for value added industries in the north.

Mr. Speaker, as Northerners we have a responsibility to ensure that when the federal government develops public policy on North America's first major diamond mine that it reflects the constituency we represent and ensures that all Canadians benefit from this development. Mr. Speaker, while the issue of valuation and sorting of northern diamonds is of great

importance to this government, equally important is how taxation and royalty revenues from the production of northern diamonds are shared between the federal and territorial governments. Mr. Speaker, it is the position of this government that the revenues raised from the production of northern diamonds must be equitably shared with the people of the Northwest Territories. Revenues that will help reduce our reliance on the federal government and assist in the development of a strong and vibrant economy.

Mr. Speaker, we are not asking the federal government for more money, we are only asking as other Canadians are, like Mr. Tobin in Newfoundland, for a fair share of the new incremental revenues that this dynamic industry will bring. Mr. Speaker, it is important to emphasize that should we be unable to negotiate an equitable revenue sharing arrangement with the federal government, we will have to pursue alternative options for revenue generation from diamond production. My department is currently working on a paper to review these options, including but not limited to the introduction of new taxation measures.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi and I will be meeting with the federal Ministers of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Finance later this month and we intend to press our position concerning both revenue sharing and the valuation and sorting of northern diamonds at that time. I will keep all Members apprised of the results of these discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Ministers' statements, Mr. Kakfwi.

Minister's Statement 101-13(4): Update on BHP Socio-Economic Agreement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to provide Members of the Legislative Assembly with an update on the Socio-Economic Agreement signed by our

Page 1371

government and BHP in October, 1996. Members will recall that the agreement provided commitments on employment and business opportunities arising from the BHP NWT Diamond Project. I am encouraged that

BHP has opted to release quarterly statistics even though the Socio-Economic Agreement only requires an annual report. I am also encouraged that the company remains a proponent of open dialogue and promotes public access to information about the mine site.

Since the agreement was signed, my department and other departments have been working very closely with BHP, and I am pleased to report that the commitments outlined in the agreement are being met to our satisfaction. It is encouraging to see northerners and northern businesses directly benefiting from the project. BHP is more than satisfying the minimum local business procurement targets established under the Socio-Economic Agreement. As of the end of July, the total value of goods and services purchased for the construction phase of the project was \$250 million. Of this amount, \$131 million or 53 percent was purchased from northern businesses. This figure far exceeds the 28 percent target established under the Socio-Economic Agreement.

BHP is also meeting its employment targets. The agreement requires 33 percent of total employment during the construction phase of the project to be northern and 14 percent of all employment to be aboriginal. The company's figures show that 46 percent of total employment has been northern and 19 percent aboriginal.

Mr. Speaker, BHP is to be congratulated on its efforts to date. But we must be vigilant to make sure that any skilled northerner who would like to work at the mine site is given the opportunity to go after a job. I view targets as being a minimum and therefore expect the targets will be exceeded throughout the life of the project. Mr. Speaker, at this time it is premature to comment on the monitoring of community health and wellness indicators. These indicators are assessed on an annual basis and would, therefore, not be reported before the end of October. However I would like to acknowledge the work that has been completed to date under the community mobilization initiative. The initiative is an industry led partnership with northern business and communities created to maximize job and business opportunities for northern and aboriginal people for mining and related industry projects. This initiative continues to evolve thanks in part to assistance from a variety of corporate sponsors.

I want to reaffirm our government's position that large scale projects such as BHP Diamond Mine must

provide employment and business opportunities to northerners. Our challenge is to continue working to maximize employment and business benefits arising, not only from the BHP project but also from development projects in the future.

Lawyers have an obligation, each has to do his or her part to ensure their children benefit from resource utilization. Our youth have to stay in school. Some residents will have to take upgrading. Training courses have to be taken and completed as without skills there will be few jobs. The time arising for this mine is a long one. The current projection for the BHP property is a lifespan of 25 years and there will be other mines. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 102-13(4): NAV Canada Fees for Air Navigation Services

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring the Assembly up-to-date on the commercialization of Canada's air navigation system under NAV Canada and the likely effects we should expect on the cost of air transportation in the north. I know this is an issue of interest for everyone who lives in the north because there is no region in Canada that is more dependent on air transportation than the Northwest Territories.

Just a little more than a year ago NAV Canada, a private corporation, assumed ownership and control of the Canadian air navigation system from Transport Canada. NAV Canada's legislated mandate is to operate the air navigation system in Canada exclusively on a cost recovery basis. The corporation will receive no appropriation or subsidy from the Government of Canada and the corporation does not answer to the federal Minister of Transport or the Parliament of Canada. NAV Canada answers only to its Board of Directors which is appointed to represent the interests of industry, labour and the public.

Up until now, the air navigation system has been paid for mainly through the Air Transportation Tax collected along with the fare on every air passenger ticket sold. Earlier this year, NAV Canada proposed to replace the Air Transportation Tax with a new fee structure based simply on gross aircraft weight and flight distance. The announcement of the new fee

structure prompted a great deal of speculation as to its effect on the price of air travel and freight rates.

In truth, it is very difficult to make comparisons and projections between the two methods of collecting revenue because they work on entirely different principles. The Air Transportation Tax was levied strictly on passengers. It did not apply to air cargo. NAV Canada's new fees are based on the carrying capacity of the aircraft. The air carriers can recover the fees from the passengers or the cargo or some combination of the two. How the carriers will choose to distribute the fees remains to be seen.

While the fee structure would be, as intended, mainly revenue neutral on air routes in southern Canada, the northern air carriers and the Department of Transportation were quick to realize that it would increase passenger fares and air cargo rates in northern Canada. The new fee structure applies to an aircraft's carrying capacity regardless of whether that carrying capacity is fully or partially used. Flights on northern routes are not generally as full as flights on southern routes. Aircraft in the north carry freight mainly one way. Return flights are usually empty. The NAV Canada fees will have a greater impact on low traffic routes in the north than they will on high traffic routes in the south.

Page 1372

Since NAV Canada announced its proposed fee structure, we have lobbied hard with the Northern Air Transport Association (NATA), the northern air carriers and Chambers of Commerce for concessions and exemptions that would lessen its impact on the north. I have expressed my concerns directly and in writing to the federal Minister of Transport and the President of NAV Canada.

The Department of Transportation convened a meeting on September 2nd of provincial and territorial deputy ministers of Transportation to consider the impact of the fees. The deputy ministers from Ontario, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Manitoba agreed with our concerns with the impacts on northern and remote communities. British Columbia and Saskatchewan were not pleased with the consultation process. The deputy ministers agreed to put the issue at the top of their agenda for the Transportation Association of Canada's meeting in Montreal later this month.

At a meeting in Yellowknife on September 3rd with the department and NATA representatives, NAV

Canada officials recognized that the fee structure would increase air transportation costs in the north, but if there were an increase, they thought it would be small.

The Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, the Deputy Premier; Mr. Joe Handley, the deputy minister of Transportation; Mr. Ken Copeland, the president and chief executive officer of NAV Canada and Mr. Arthur Andreassen, the director of Rates and Revenues, met in Ottawa on September 10th. At this meeting, NAV Canada conceded that the effect on northern air routes had been an oversight. They agreed to watch the impacts closely through the first phase of fee implementation when it takes effect on March 1, 1998.

They also agreed to better consultations for the second phase of implementation that begins on November 1, 1998 and extends the fee structure to include smaller aircraft.

As things stand today, we will have to wait and see how receptive and flexible NAV Canada is prepared to be to our representations. NAV Canada suggests that its new fee structure will not produce an increase in our air transportation costs of any more than three percent. Some northern air carriers have projected an increase as high as eight percent.

Mr. Speaker, my time is up. I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Nahendeh is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Minister's statement. Mr. Antoine, you have unanimous consent.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the estimates of between three and eight percent apply to total industry revenues. As of yet, we have no indication how the carriers intend to distribute the fees between passenger fares and freight rates.

In any case, our efforts have certainly made NAV Canada aware of the effect of their new fees on the cost of northern air services. We will continue to work with the northern air industry and the Chambers of Commerce to see that the shift to cost recovery in Canada's air navigation system does not impose an unfair burden on the cost of air transportation in the north on which we depend and that is already too high. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 409-13(4): Inuvialuit Petroleum Corporation Achievement

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back and I wish to extend this welcome back to the other Members as well. Mr. Speaker, by way of this Member's statement, I wish to call attention to a very significant achievement accomplished by the Inuvialuit Petroleum Corporation. Namely, the successful drilling and testing of the Ikhil gas well located 30 miles north of the town of Inuvik during the winter months of 1997.

As some Members may already know this successful drilling and testing program was a significant part of the overall plan the IPC has undertaken to supply natural gas to the town of Inuvik. The successful completion of the Ikhil K-35 well has assured a 15-year reliable supply of natural gas with potential for larger reserves in the immediate area.

IPC's overall expenditures on this portion of the Inuvik gas project was in the neighbourhood of \$1.6 million, a major portion of which was spent in the Beaufort Delta area to the benefit of local businesses and residents.

Mr. Speaker, the overall completion of the Inuvik gas project calls for construction of production facilities, construction of a 30 mile gas pipeline from the well site to the town gates and a distribution system within the town of Inuvik. Total cost of the project would be in the neighbourhood of \$30 million. Time lines for completion is the year 2000. Potential benefits through local employment and businesses is approximately \$25 million. Potential energy savings to Inuvik customers is a 15 percent reduction in heating and power costs.

Most if not all regulatory requirements have been met and at the present time IPC is negotiating with potential customers to assure enough customers undertake conversion to natural gas to make the project viable. This includes negotiations with this government for conversion of government owned or controlled buildings within Inuvik.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Nunakput is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Member's statement. You have unanimous consent.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to my colleagues. As a Member of this Assembly representing this particular area I ask that this government cooperate to the fullest extent with the IPC towards the successful completion

Page 1373

of this project. Mr. Speaker, I wish to point here that it is not as if this group is asking for an unreasonable subsidy from this government such as the BIP or, heaven forbid, a clothing allowance. All they are asking for is a little cooperation from the government to the benefit of all local residents.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the most significant fact here is not the scope of the project itself, but rather the fact that this project is being undertaken by a 100 percent aboriginal group for the benefit of the people in the region and in the NWT as well. This is solid evidence of an aboriginal land claims group utilizing the natural resources obtained through claims negotiations for the benefit of themselves and other Canadians as well. The Inuvialuit can lay claim to being the first aboriginal group to undertake the production of petroleum products in the NWT and for the direct benefit of NWT residents. The Inuvik gas project, when completed and the gas is flowing, will serve to show that it is possible to construct pipelines safely north of the Arctic Circle. The oil and gas industry is a risky business at best, but this group of people are willing to take reasonable risk for the benefit of the Inuvialuit and the NWT in general.

Mr. Speaker, the Ikhil gas reserves represent a very small portion of the overall proven gas reserves in the Mackenzie Delta and Beaufort Sea. What is unique about this reserve is that it is situated on Inuvialuit 7(1)a lands, therefore the Inuvialuits own it, lock stock and barrel, including the royalties.

There are trillions of cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves in the Parson Lake area located within 15 miles of the Ikhil Reserve but the federal government along with the major oil companies who hold the

development rights have chosen to just sit on these resources rather than develop them to the benefit of the country.

Mr. Speaker, I, for one, feel that if the federal government is not willing and ready to develop the resources of this territory located on federal lands than they should turn these resources over to this government for disposal and development. Further more, if this government cannot figure out what to do with the resources, why then turn them over to the Inuvialuit? They will do something with them I can assure you. Who knows they may even give this government a deal on the price when we sell this gas back to them. Mr. Speaker, as an Inuvialuit beneficiary representing a riding consisting of a major portion of the Inuvialuit settlement area I feel privileged to be able to make this statement today. I hope the rest of the Members of this Assembly will join me in congratulating this very ambitious claims group on their achievements today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement 410-13(4): Speech Pathologist for the South Slave

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over 150 young children that live in the South Slave region have been diagnosed as requiring the services of a speech and language pathologist. If these children do not receive professional services, the road ahead is going to be particularly difficult. Language is the main method of establishing and maintaining social relationships. It is also central to the acquisition of many academic skills, particularly literacy. Our government has acknowledged that education is fundamental to self sufficiency. For these young children and their families each day is filled with frustration.

As a government we only know the situation from what is presented to us on paper. We do not experience the challenges of the affected families. It is vital to the lives of these children that they have early intervention from speech pathologists. It would cost the government less than \$56 per child, per year,

for a speech language pathologist to be located in Hay River, for the benefit of all of the South Slave region.

The services that a speech language pathologist provide include: working with individuals with hearing impairment, autism, developmental, emotional, behavioural and physical handicaps. They also work with children with speech and voice problems.

In the South Slave at present, we have the services of a speech language pathologist from the Stanton Regional Hospital. This person is very capable, but the demand is such that most of the time is spent diagnosing cases, not in treating them. Often the treatment has to be administered by parents and teachers.

The South Slave region receives visits from a speech pathologist three times a year, and this is not enough for the number of cases that we have. The people of the South Slave have pursued the placement of a speech language pathologist in Hay River, but have been informed that is not possible under present economic conditions.

Presently in the Northwest Territories, there are six language speech pathologists. Five are located in Yellowknife and one in Inuvik. The five in Yellowknife service the whole territories. If families want to receive services outside of those offered by Stanton, they have to get a doctor's referral to Edmonton and pay for it themselves.

I reiterate the need for a speech language pathologist to be situated in Hay River. We have an unaddressed need and I will be working with my colleagues in pursuing this issue on behalf of my constituents with the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 411-13(4): Addressing Forced Growth

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past 22 months, the 13th Assembly has had to deal with deficit reductions, division, transitional plans, housing shortages and a myriad of other issues. Mr. Speaker, the 13th Assembly has managed to get the deficit under control, the Student Job

Page 1374

Strategy this past summer, Project 2000, the Access to Information legislation and other initiatives have been successful to varying degrees.

However, we have not addressed the dilemma of population increase and forced growth. The Northwest Territories has the highest teenage birth rate per capita in the country. Inflationary factors of forced growth have caused increased spending within the social envelope to the point of sustainability. Mr. Speaker, we have to address this now. Other jurisdictions have implemented family planning programs and courses at the high school level. We need to begin these programs from the current drib-drib approach more pro-actively.

Mr. Speaker, family planning, high birth rates and teenage pregnancy are very delicate subjects to approach at the best of times. But something has to be done and it has to start now. Education of the implementation and ramifications of the continued teenage pregnancy and the impact socially, as well as monetarily, have to be explained.

Mr. Speaker, as an elected official over the past 22 months, I have tried to bring areas of constituency and territorial matters to this House. I have tried to provide constructive criticism as well as solutions to our problems. The legacy of the 13th Assembly will be of what we have accomplished, and not what we have pontificated on.

Later today I will ask the Minister of Health and Social Services about the issues surrounding family planning and strategies to address it.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said in this House before, a goal without a slogan is just a strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 412-13(4): Need for a Daycare Program in Broughton Island

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In most communities there is the need for daycare facilities for working parents and parents attending school. These people are trying to improve their lives by attending school or finding

employment. Daycare is a necessary service for steps towards independence from government.

Under early childhood programs, there is funding available to the communities. To get this funding the community has to complete procedures laid down by the Department of Education. For two years a group within the community of Broughton Island has been trying to start a daycare but has been unsuccessful. The community needs assistance to achieve this goal. They are bewildered as to who to approach and how to approach them.

Mr. Speaker, when our government offers grants and programs to the people of the north, it is important that they also offer information and help so that all individuals can have equal access. Often, due to the lack of staff or information, small communities miss out on programs and money. Unfortunately, these are often the communities that need help the most. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 413-13(4): Proposed Reduction to Inuvik Health Board Funding

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the news hit the airways about a possible \$6 million reduction in the Inuvik Health Board budget, there was much concern being raised from the people of Inuvik.

Mr. Speaker, if this were to go through, it would absolutely devastate the Inuvik region. I think we as legislators, are aware of the burden all northern communities face when it comes to the health of our constituents. We are also aware of the high costs of providing care to the people who are entitled to it here in the north.

It is with this that I say that we must measure adequacy of service, not funding allocations to health boards. This is the message that I share with both the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister of Finance. I would like to thank both of them for meeting with me and allowing me to raise the concerns of the Inuvik residents through them. I am thankful for the news that the Inuvik Regional Health Board will not be receiving a reduction in its budget.

Mr. Speaker, it is not often that I thank any Minister for their work in helping the community of Inuvik out. It has, however, been only a brief break in the many dark days Inuvik has faced to date. And I look forward to a more positive message being sent out to the residents of Inuvik and those of the Northwest Territories, and until I start receiving more of this positive news, I will be defending the interests of the Inuvik residents.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 414-13(4): Health Board Funding

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the end of August, I publicly raised the issue of the concern about the proposed formula for health boards that would have seen a shift of up to \$13 million from western health boards to eastern health boards. It was shameful, Mr. Speaker.

However, having publicly raised the issue, I would also like to publicly thank the Minister for hearing the concerns of the people of Fort Smith and the Western Arctic and agreeing to a wise course of action that would not see any cuts to the health boards budgets for the life of this government.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not comment on the alacrity as well with which the Premier joined the fray. He was on the air very quickly and the one phrase that stuck in my mind was he said that I was irresponsible. Mr. Speaker, I may be irrepressible or irresistible, but never irresponsible.

Page 1375

My colleague from Iqaluit, the prince of pontification, also joined the fray and kept the level of debate where he is most comfortable.

Very clearly, Mr. Speaker, on the march to division, the issue of equity and fairness east and west is going to be paramount in all our minds, so that at the end of the day we have a win situation when we hit April 1999.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, to my Cabinet colleagues for their wise decisions.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr Arlooktoo.

Member's Statement 415-13(4): Proposed Nunavut Electoral Boundaries

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to raise an issue that is very important to people of my constituency. Electoral boundaries for Nunavut. The report of Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission was tabled in the House yesterday. I would like to express my appreciation to the commission for their hard work.

Early on in the process, Nunavut leaders recommended 20 to 22 seats for a Nunavut government. As I outlined in my verbal submission to the commission, I believe that 17 seats for the Nunavut government, as outlined in the report, is a more realistic number. This recommendation is more cost-effective and still provides constituents with the representation they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I have consulted with my constituents extensively on this issue. Kimmirut and Cape Dorset are in general agreement with the recommended Model C which keeps these two communities together.

These communities share the same culture, dialect and have close family ties. A shared riding makes sense and I agree. However, the residents of Sanikiluaq expressed a resounding no to being grouped with Whale Cove in a shared riding.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Sanikiluaq is in a unique position. It is geographically remote from all other communities of Nunavut. Scheduled airline flights are difficult, if not impossible. Many of the family and cultural connections are with the Inuit of Quebec, not Whale Cove. Mr. Speaker, this is not a rejection of Whale Cove by Sanikiluaq residents, but simply a desire by Sanikiluaq residents to have their unique situation recognized in a separate riding (Translation ends).

I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In conclusion, it is my intention to move a motion in committee of the whole tomorrow when we are discussing these issues requesting that changes be made to the recommended Model C to give Sanikiluaq its own seat in Nunavut Legislature. Also, today I will table the letter sent to me by the mayor of Sanikiluaq, Peter Kattuk, outlining his concerns over the proposed electoral boundary for Sanikiluaq. I look forward to debating this issue tomorrow and elaborating on my concerns for the Members of the Session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 416-13(4): Tribute to Jim Evoy

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in July the north and labour lost a strong leader when Mr. Jimmy Evoy, president of the NWT Federation of Labour passed away from a heart attack. Mr. Evoy was only 54 years old, which is quite young today. Mr. Evoy was a strong advocate of working peoples' rights and community well being in the north. In addition to his position with the NWT Federation of Labour, Mr. Evoy also served as vice-president of the Canadian Labour of Congress. Mr. Speaker, I knew Jim since 1984 when I was working on an overall pipeline and he came to visit the project as a labour leader. He was always a strong supporter of people who were less fortunate than him. In fact, he lived and breathed it. He also had a good sense of humour, which he often used to make a point as he did with the clothing drive for the MLAs a couple of days before his heart attack. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Morin, the Premier of the Northwest Territories, indicated that while we did not always see eye to eye on things, I did recognize and respect his opinion and his passion for the rights of northern workers. Mr. Speaker, the north has lost a strong voice, and advocate for the rights of the common people. While we did not always agree with him, as the Premier said, we did recognize and respect his opinion. I am sure that I speak for all the MLAs when I say that we will miss his wit, his commitment and his dedication not only to labour issues but for most causes that required a strong voice. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 417-13(4): Relocation of Federal Civil Servants

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I had the opportunity to question the Premier about the motion we passed in this House four months ago. That motion asked the Premier to initiate a quest that a comprehensive list of federal civil service positions dedicated to policy, development and programming in the Northwest Territories currently located in southern jurisdictions be developed by September 30th and that upon receipt of this comprehensive listing, the Premier initiate discussions with the appropriate federal Ministers to facilitate the relocations as an interim step towards eventual devolution.

Page 1376

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Premier indicated in his response to my question that he has not acted on an important part of our motion, and I interpreted that to mean he does not intend to act on that part very soon. You will recall that the reason for the motion was because Cabinet was pursuing only the mineral, oil and gas functions. In the motion, the Ordinary Members asked that this thrust be expanded, recognizing that the federal government has more employees of concern to us than just those in a confined sector of one department, and hence, the motion. In doing my research this summer, I found that some 25 federal departments and agencies have employees that could potentially be considered for our relocation program. I learnt that literally hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars can be identified. I understand that a lot of relevant detail was contained in a comprehensive report published annually by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. The latest such report was issued about 24 months ago. Since then, DIAND has not updated this annual report. Why? Could it be that they recognize how useful this information is to us to identify the very positions we are talking about? It is also interesting to note that this summer, the Yukon Government had a person in Ottawa doing research into just this type of inventory report our motion asked be developed.

Our motion deserves to be acted upon. This is a constructive proposal for us to improve service delivery to northerners and to replenish our job losses, a golden opportunity. It should be an

important component of our economic recovery program. Mr. Premier, I would request that you act on our motion. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 418-13(4): Educating Disabled Children

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning Lydia Bardak, the executive director of the Northwest Territories Council for Disabled Persons, was on the radio discussing the issue she is being confronted with regarding children within our education system who have difficulties and disabilities. Ms. Bardak indicated she has had significant increase in calls from both families and educators desperately looking for help for their children. These children have a right to an education under the current Education Act.

However, Mr. Speaker, this system, which we call mainstreaming, is not working. It is not working for various reasons, the main one is the student's inability to learn within the way and environment they are being taught in. Schools cannot provide for every student's specific need who walks in their doors. The term mainstreaming or inclusive schooling sounds like a wonderful term where all students with various differences can learn together. However, schools cannot provide the learning environment for these various needs even though they are mandated to do so by the Education Act. We have children who are blind, who are deaf, who have physical disabilities, who are mentally challenged, who have fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects in epidemic proportions. We have dyslexic children and autistic children. These children are placed within the regular school alongside the rest of the school population and have a right to receive an education to their level and ability to understand like everyone else. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this does not and cannot happen.

I also received a letter from Mrs. Bardak who asked and I quote, "Why do we not have adequately trained professionals? What is the point of inclusive education? It is nothing more than babysitting." I submit that Mrs. Bardak is very close to the truth for many students. Let us be honest. How can we

possibly expect teachers to educate students within one class with these various needs without the proper training and support? I commend our teachers, but as hard as they may try they cannot succeed under these circumstances. 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 we have any nays? Mr. Henry, you have unanimous consent.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you colleagues. The new Education Act has increased the student/teacher ratio in classroom and this, the Minister of Education advises, will continue. The Education Act has provisions for funding for students with special needs. Sounds great for those who need it. However, schools are forced to then prioritize how they will use that funding within the school system having to choose one child's needs over another. Mr. Speaker, how can the school tell the parent of a child with special needs that their child cannot receive special programming because the resources were used for another. Educational institutions are being forced to make these tough decisions. We have all heard the term, education is the key to the future of the north. Mr. Speaker, I suggest that we will have to do more to provide that key. Later today, I will be asking the Minister of Education on this particular topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 419-13(4): Concerns with Community Empowerment

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During this time of cutbacks and community empowerment, it is my concern that we are not downloading our programs just for the sake of downloading. As we are all aware, the more we devolve to the communities and the more responsibility these communities are taking on, means the risk of more financial ruin. My concern is, are we as government providing all the necessary information that is required to ensure we do not have any form of backlash? Do all programs that are being administered by the communities have the required

resources? I do not want my community in the north to suffer simply because of lack of resources. If there are other problems, then the community must adjust accordingly. We cannot be seen as the group that caused all these problems. We are moving at a tremendous pace as well as our communities and I hope that all is well. It is good that our community people are taking advantage of community empowerment. I hope more people jump in and

Page 1377

start taking advantage of the opportunities that can be realized for community operation and programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Returns To Oral Questions 516-13(4): Tender Closing and Medevac Contract Award

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. O'Brien on June 2nd, tender closing for the Medevac contract award--Oral Question 516-13(4). On April 1, 1996 the Department of Health and Social Services transferred the funding and authority for medical travel to hospital and health boards. The boards were directed to issue Request for Proposals (RFPs) for charter air medevac carrier services.

In the Keewatin, a review committee met to review proposals submitted in response to the RFPs. The committee recommended the Keewatin Regional Health Board re-issue the RFPs with more precise specifications regarding aircraft type, runway capabilities, range and speed. Unfortunately, the Board did not formally advise the proponents that they had decided to cancel the proposal call. They have been directed to do so and intend to re-issue this RFPs shortly.

Returns To Oral Questions 534-13(4): Penalty for Contravening the Financial Administration Act

HON. DON MORIN:

I also have another return, Mr. Speaker, asked by Mr. Picco on June 3, 1997, Penalty for Contravening the

Financial Administration Act. On June 3, 1996 Mr. Picco asked if there was a penalty for circumventing the Financial Administration Act. Offences and punishment are addressed in sections 105 and 106 of the Act. Section 106 specifies that:

"Every public officer or other person who wilfully contravenes this Act or the regulations is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or both." Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a former MLA of this House who is now living in Fort Resolution, Pete Fraser. Pete is very involved, in working with the elders. He also sits in the Elders Justice Committee and helped organize the trip for the elders to Lac St. Anne this summer from Fort Resolution.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I do not often get an opportunity to do this, but I would like to recognize this afternoon Mr. and Mrs. John Davenport. John gives me advice frequently even when I do not want it on the budget. John is currently employed with the NWT Power Corporation and my understanding is that he is currently on assignment as resident lecturer with Arctic College. I would like everyone to give them a welcome. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two visiting members of our management team of the Housing Corporation from the Baffin Region, Mr. Peter Scott is the district director and with him is Hunter Tootoo who is on senior management assignment with the Housing Corporation.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 564-13(4): Health Board Funding

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I spoke of the health board funding and its allocations. I would just like to ask the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services if he can state in this House that there will be no health board funding cuts to any of the health boards for the life of this Assembly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 564-13(4): Health Board Funding

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot definitely say that there will not be any reductions. I do not think that I can anticipate that, pending what happens financially outside the control of this government. The budget still has to be approved by the Financial Management Board and through the Assembly. I can say with as much certainty as possible that there is not any anticipation of implementing formula funding discussions within the life of this government, the allocations based on some of the work that has been done to date. As I had indicated, we are planning on a \$4 million reinvestment into the health care of the Northwest Territories in the 1998/99 fiscal year, and tried to target some strategic investments to address some long term impacts on our health care, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 564-13(4): Health Board Funding

Page 1378

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister clarify the health board funding cuts that were being discussed? As a result of those discussions in that plan that was being developed, there will be no reductions based on those? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 564-13(4): Health Board Funding

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, in respect to the issue of any shifts in resources as a result of the formula funding exercise that the department and the boards were undertaking, no, there are not any anticipated plans within the life of this government to implement any of the potential shift that might have occurred as a result of that exercise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 565-13(4): Bussing Fees

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Education, Culture and Employment. It is in regard to the issue of bussing fees. The South Slave last year experienced a significant cut, approximately 42 percent, to their funding for bussing. This has resulted in the requirement in Fort Smith to charge user fees to children. As well, I understand in Hay River. I would like the Minister to explain, if he could, in as simple straightforward and understandable a language as possible, the rationale behind this particular decision and the funding

situation which resulted in this draconian measure. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 565-13(4): Bussing Fees

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have tried to explain many times the change to the formula. Obviously I have not been succinct enough. I will try again today. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important for all Members to understand that boards or Divisional Education Councils are block funded by this government. The councils are one of the early examples this government has of success in community empowerment at the regional level. The department does use a formula to allocate funds to councils to ensure equity. After that allocation is decided by the department, the councils do not have to follow the allocation as it is set up. Councils are free to allocate funds in a manner they see as best filling the needs of the population they serve. For instance, Mr. Speaker, that means that a council could choose to decrease the support to bussing while increasing the pupil/teacher ratio. Or they could choose to decrease support to fine arts or to special needs students. It is totally at the council's discretion how they spend the money that we provide them, as long as they are following the guidelines and policies of the government. It became obvious in about 1989, there needed to be some examination of criteria for allocating funds to councils, and in 1996, after a considerable amount of discussion, there was a rebasing of the formula.

All of the directors from all of the councils were involved in discussions and, after changing the formulas around, the resulting amount of money that would have been going to the South Slave Divisional Education Council would have actually increased from the previous year. They would have had a net benefit in total dollars going to them over the previous year. But because of our deficit elimination strategy, all of the councils got cut by the same percentage to achieve the deficit elimination targets that were set by this Legislature. The resulting decrease in funds should not be highlighted as being allocated particularly to bussing. The decrease in funds to all of the councils was tied to the budget of this territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 565-13(4): Bussing Fees

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister explain why larger communities like Fort Smith that are tax based where people pay education taxes and municipal taxes in addition to all their other taxes, seem to be the ones that now have to bear the burden for user fees for bus services because they do not want to sacrifice quality of education in the program areas? Does that seem to be equitable? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 565-13(4): Bussing Fees

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer the Member's direct question. As I said, the councils make the choice as to where they allocate the reductions that this government has had to pass on to them. I can say that the formula is believed to be equitable by the department, and it was agreed to by the directors who were present when the formula was being reworked. It includes such things as a fixed dollar amount for full time equivalent student, weighting for average school enrolments, living cost differential, and, Mr. Speaker, it also includes a distance factor based on school student populations and how far away they live from schools. The formula is equitable across the territories because the same criteria are applied in all communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 565-13(4): Bussing Fees

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate the process in which this formula that has been developed and agreed to, however reluctantly, is monitored and possibly revised as it is implemented

and the impacts are felt in case there is a need for readjustment? Thank you.

Page 1379

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 565-13(4): Bussing Fees

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In most cases where a council feels that there is something that is not taken into account in the formula, they can approach the department and ask that it be reviewed. In fact, South Slave did approach the department last spring and argued that the distance factors had not been accurately calculated for their council. Those numbers were looked at and it did make a difference to the formula, although not enough to make the council completely happy with the amount of money. There was some additional funding that was made available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 565-13(4): Bussing Fees

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the amount of money that students are paying on an individual basis, is there the opportunity to come back to the department to look for funds to offset the impact on individuals and families in our communities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 565-13(4): Bussing Fees

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All of the funds that the department has available for supporting schools are distributed to the councils. There is no money left at headquarters that is available to supplement those dollars that are currently distributed. So the answer is no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 566-13(4): Speech Pathology Services

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. As I mentioned in my Member's statement today, there are currently five speech language pathologists residing in Yellowknife and one in Inuvik. At first glance this would appear to be a rather inequitable distribution of this service in the Northwest Territories. I was wondering if the Minister could respond to that inequity and tell us why these individuals are not spread out more evenly for the delivery of services to the various regions.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 566-13(4): Speech Pathology Services

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer that. I do not know why they would be all centralized. With the Stanton Regional Board as it stands now, I will commit to taking a look at the rationale for that, where their service areas are, the days of service and get back to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 566-13(4): Speech Pathology Services

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a proposal from the Hay River Community Health Board for services in our community, in response to that, the Minister gave a similar explanation as Mr. Dent just provided on bussing, in that the community health board receives block funding and if they require those services, they would have to achieve that out of the existing funding. I am curious as to how the five positions in Yellowknife are funded. Are they funded specifically to provide services to regions? What portion of that funding provided to the Yellowknife pathologist would actually be determined for the South Slave region?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 566-13(4): Speech Pathology Services

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As indicated, I do not know what the rationale or why it is that there are five positions with the Stanton Regional Board. As I indicated, I will find out more information on that particular issue and advise the Member accordingly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 567-13(4): Resources Dedicated to Inclusive Schooling

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Charles Dent. Under the Education Act, schools are dictated to follow an inclusive education system for all students. Would the Minister please indicate what resources and funding his department provides to schools to assist in students with special needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 567-13(4): Resources Dedicated to Inclusive Schooling

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department provides more than \$10 million a year in resources for councils across the territories in support of inclusive schooling. In addition, there is support for professional development for teachers and assistance in adaptive teaching strategies to help teachers understand how to best work with students who have special needs in classrooms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry

Supplementary To Question 567-13(4): Resources Dedicated to Inclusive Schooling

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister, through his department, received any concerns from schools and parents in particular that the resources that are provided are sufficient to provide the services for the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 567-13(4): Resources Dedicated to Inclusive Schooling

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has always been a concern about the level of support for inclusive schooling. And in fact, throughout the budget reduction exercises, that is the only area in our formula which has increased every year, in spite of the budget reductions.

We see the need to support inclusive schooling as being one of the priorities of the department and because of that, we have managed within the formula for schools to increase the amount of money that goes to inclusive schooling each year. Yes, we have heard concerns raised by councils that the need for resources is growing quite significantly.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 567-13(4): Resources Dedicated to Inclusive Schooling

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that. If I heard the Minister correctly, he is telling me that the school boards have communicated to him that in fact they do need more resources, and over the years the amount that he has provided to school districts has increased.

In light of the request from school boards that more resources are required and there is a sufficient

amount of monies being provided to follow-up and provide the requirements that are called for in the Act for all students, what is his department doing about this shortage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 567-13(4): Resources Dedicated to Inclusive Schooling

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I indicated in my previous answer what we are doing. We are increasing the proportion of the formula that applies to inclusive schooling and have done so every year. If the Member is asking me to magically produce more money, I cannot do that. The amount of money that comes to the department has been set by the Legislature and the allocation is such that we think the balance is the best we can make it right now.

As the Member will realize from the previous questions I answered, we are being pressured by councils to increase funding, to decrease the pupil/teacher ratio and to increase the support for bussing. The councils are telling us they need greater support in all areas and not just in special needs. What we have done is recognize that special needs students require greater support, and therefore, have moved money into that field. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 567-13(4): Resources Dedicated to Inclusive Schooling

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has advised us that he does not have any additional funds. He also tells us that the school boards are telling him that they need more resources. The Minister provides direction to school boards through the Act on what is required and what is needed, as far as education for students.

Would the Minister consider changing some portions of the Act if he does not have the money to dictate that parts of the Act have to be followed? Would he consider changing some parts of the Act to the level of funding that he has? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 567-13(4): Resources Dedicated to Inclusive Schooling

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tempted to just say no and leave it at that. However, I will say I think the approach was the proper approach and that within the monies available, our teachers and our councils are delivering services and dealing with the situation in the classroom far better than if we were to say they did not have to achieve a certain level of service. I think the children of the north deserve the level of service that is mandated in the Act, that all councils and the department have to work together to try and ensure that can be achieved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 568-13(4): Regulations for Health Equipment

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, in my home community of Arviat this week, 10 year old Armand Kaviok died as a result of injuries after falling from his bicycle.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, if ultrasound equipment was available in the health centre, is it possible that the seriousness of the injuries this boy suffered could have been diagnosed and possibly a life could have been saved? Can the Minister advise me as to whether there are any regulations in place that are legislated to ensure these types of equipment should be installed, or should be in place, in health centres across the north? Thank you.

Page 1381

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 568-13(4): Regulations for Health Equipment

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if there is anything legislated that has to be supplied in respect to equipment in health centres. It is an unfortunate incident that the honourable Member refers to. Quite frankly, I do not think the availability of certain types of equipment would have changed the circumstances of the situation, not knowing the full details of the particular accident the honourable Member speaks of. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 568-13(4): Regulations for Health Equipment

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister stating there are no regulations that are legislated, or he is not sure? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 568-13(4): Regulations for Health Equipment

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not certain if there are regulations or legislative requirements in respect to minimal or mandatory equipment to be provided. I will check into the matter and see if that is the case and advise the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco

Question 569-13(4): Tax Break for Low-Income Residents

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has spoken about tax regimes. I would like to ask the Minister, will he look at implementing a

territorial tax break for single parents and low income families? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 569-13(4): Tax Break for Low-Income Residents

HON. JOHN TODD:

My honourable colleague actually raised this issue with me earlier in the year with respect to the possibility of looking at a tax break for low income single parent families. We are looking at that right now. I cannot commit today as to whether we would put it into the January budget, but we are certainly taking a serious look at it, recognizing that on the low end income side, families are hurting and suffering out there. There may be a way to put something in place that would assist them, as has been done in other jurisdictions like BC. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 570-13(4): Aurora Investment Fund Status

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier, regarding the Aurora Fund. One year ago, the Cabinet approved this fund, and it came into being approved by the federal government one year ago. The object was to raise \$30 million dollars for this fund. I understand that the Premier made a trip to the Orient to raise and promote this fund and that he was fairly successful in this. Perhaps he could tell us today how much is in the so-called bank in this fund? Not what is committed, just what is in the bank todate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will request Mr. Todd to answer that question. He is in charge of the Aurora Fund.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 570-13(4): Aurora Investment Fund Status

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important to understand how the Aurora Fund is set up. It is not set up as a bank. It is set up as system where immigrants are prepared to invest money in the Canadian north. Based upon them meeting certain criteria and certain security checks, they then receive a passport into Canada, as is done in pretty well all jurisdictions across Canada from British Columbia to Quebec. As the potential new immigrants come into the system, the money comes into the system and goes into an escrow account. We have a manager of the Aurora Fund who then reviews applications with the investment committee. As the money flows in, it then flows out with respect to the investments that may be on the books that the management investment committee have recommended. I do not know if that has answered the question of my colleague, but that is it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 570-13(4): Aurora Investment Fund Status

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a point of order, the Minister did not answer my question. The question was, how much has been put in the bank? If I may get the extra question in, because I have a number of them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 570-13(4): Aurora Investment Fund Status

HON. JOHN TODD:

Maybe I need a flip-chart and a magic marker. I am trying to explain to my colleague how it works. It does not work like a bank. The flow of money comes in, applications are received as it comes in, it goes out. It only

Page 1382

stays temporary in an escrow account. The investor wants to see his money invested so he gets a return on investment so then he can get his passport to reside in Canada. It is that simple.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member does not have a point of order to receive further questions. You have three supplementaries. It is up to the Member to use those supplementaries to receive a response from the Ministers. This is your third supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker, was that not my second supplementary?

MR. SPEAKER:

I am sorry, Mr. Ootes. On your point of order, you did ask a second question. This is your third supplementary. Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 570-13(4): Aurora Investment Fund Status

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the government was trying to raise a total of \$30 million for this fund and that commitments were made because of certain efforts that Ministers of the government had put into it. I wonder if the Minister could tell us how much has actually been received of those commitments? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 570-13(4): Aurora Investment Fund Status

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce we are now on the second immigration fund, and they are currently out there selling it in Asia and some parts of the Arabian countries like Saudi Arabia, et cetera. The first fund has been concluded and we are now on to the second fund, Aurora Fund Two. Hopefully it will be as successful as the first fund. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 570-13(4): Aurora Investment Fund Status

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what the Minister stated, I have to interpret that \$30 million was raised in the cash flow system. I wonder if the Minister could tell us if a report will be issued as to how that funding has been injected and to what companies or organizations that will be distributed to in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 570-13(4): Aurora Investment Fund Status

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we set up the fund, I made sure the investment committee was made up of southern appointees who were knowledgeable in the lending and funding institutions of Canada so we could avoid any appearances that there may be political interference in the allocation of where the dollars go. This fund operates independent of government. We acted as the seed money which we put it which we have recovered from the fund. I would have to check with the fund managers and the others if in fact we are going to deliver a report to this House. The way I envision it right now is independent of government, and it is set up in a manner where political interference is nil. It is proceeding with applications for business interests, \$750,000 and up. We are excited about the fact we have been able to sell the fund as successfully as we have. As I said earlier, we are on the second fund, moving forward to provide investment capital for entrepreneurs at a time when it is desperately needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 571-13(4): Gender-Neutral Job Evaluation

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to Mr. Todd, the Minister of Finance responsible for the Financial Management Board. In his sessional statement today, he talked about the implementation

of a new gender neutral job evaluation system. Can the Minister advise the House as to when he will anticipate that this will be ready for introduction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 571-13(4): Gender-Neutral Job Evaluation

HON. JOHN TODD:

Maybe I could get some clarity on the question for introduction. Does the honourable colleague mean when are we actually going to put this into effect, or does he mean are we going to introduce it to the House. I just need some clarity there.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Henry, clarification.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For clarification purposes, I wish to know when the Minister anticipates that these negotiations will be completed with the UNW and that we have a system to implement into this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I think I made it perfectly clear and I have been consistent over the past few months, and I certainly made it clear in my speech today. Our position is that we work in partnership with the UNW to reach a satisfactory arrangement for all employees in the pay equity side. I would stress though that it has to be affordable and has to meet, if you want, the fiscal realities that we are currently facing. To answer my colleague, my preference would be to do it sooner rather than later. We are in sensitive negotiations. They are underway right now. Hopefully, in the coming weeks, we will be able to come to a satisfactory arrangement with our partners and get on with renegotiating new collective agreements as we move towards April 1, 1999. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 571-13(4): Gender-Neutral Job Evaluation

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that these evaluations are still under negotiations with the UNW. The Minister talked about how he would hope to have something in the coming weeks. Would it be too optimistic to anticipate that we would have something in place for this government for the new fiscal year, April 1, 1998? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 571-13(4): Gender-Neutral Job Evaluation

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no question that the gender neutral job evaluation will be in place for April 1, 1998. That is what we are shooting for. We have said consistently we have no argument with pay equity. We are totally in support of it. What we are discussing right now in the sensitive area of negotiations is retroactivity. I am confident that by April 1, 1999, we will have the system in place for our current employees. I am optimistic that, in partnership with the UNW, we will make a sincere effort to come to a satisfactory conclusion which is both affordable and is timely with respect to retroactivity. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 571-13(4): Gender-Neutral Job Evaluation

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, in the question of retroactivity, are both sides continuing negotiations on that particular topic? How are they going at it this time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 571-13(4): Gender-Neutral Job Evaluation

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not part of the negotiating team, of course, but we are optimistic that we can come to a satisfactory negotiated settlement with respect to this pay equity issue. I am going to say it until I am blue in the face. It has to be done where there is an affordable component to it. As I said earlier in my speech, this government certainly does not want to cut any more programs. This government certainly does not want to cut any more employees. Everybody has to come to the table with that understanding. I am optimistic that our colleagues and partners in the UNW will do that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 572-13(4): Future of the Personnel Secretariat

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, I see via the Internet that the ADM from the Personnel Secretariat is moving to Fort Smith to head the Department of Public Works. Last year, the Executive basically took apart the central hiring agency and we now have people running around all over the place with stacks of resumes to apply for jobs. I would like to know is this the next step in doing away with the Personnel Secretariat?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 572-13(4): Future of the Personnel Secretariat

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We needed a dynamic individual who would move to Fort Smith to take over the responsibilities of the Department of Public Works and, as superintendent, Mr. Bohnet is going to take that move. I think that he will be moving fairly soon. I wish him the best of luck on his new job. As far as the Department of Personnel, there is no longer a Department of Personnel within this government. The departments have the responsibility of hiring their people. They will not only have the responsibility of

hiring, they are also accountable to carry out this government's policies while they do that hiring. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 572-13(4): Future of the Personnel Secretariat

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that Fort Smith office will be receiving a dynamic person and the ADM will do a good job there as well. But what I would like to know is what are the plans now for the Personnel Secretariat? It seems as though there is something afoot here. What are the plans? Are they going to do away with this or is it going to stay in place? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 572-13(4): Future of the Personnel Secretariat

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have always made it very clear to Members of this House that we had downgraded the Personnel Secretariat from a department. We have given the responsibility to the departments for hiring. The Finance Management Board has a responsibility as well for a portion of that, but the Personnel Secretariat is where we had people on staff to help the departments in the transfer or help the departments to get up to steam. We would also assist them in the hiring process and the training, and slowly but surely we would be getting out of that as a central agent, and the departments would be fully responsible for all of their own hiring. That has always been the intention of this government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 572-13(4): Future of the Personnel Secretariat

Page 1384

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Speaker, does the Premier intend to restaff this position? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 572-13(4): Future of the Personnel Secretariat

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 572-13(4): Future of the Personnel Secretariat

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Speaker, the Premier has indicated that he is not going to be restaffing this position. Is it also part of the plan, along with doing away with this very important position, to take away the functions of doing audits on the departments? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 572-13(4): Future of the Personnel Secretariat

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 573-13(4): Special Needs Students' Services

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow up to Mr. Henry's Member's statement and subsequent questions regarding special needs students and the delivery of education services to those students, the timing of his statement and questions are interesting, as just today I received another call from a parent in Hay River who has a son who is experiencing difficulty in the school system but is included in the mainstream, as they call

it. The frustration that people experience when you get a child who is getting up into the teen years and is delayed in several areas and all the reports are in hand from various institutions from pathologists and everything else, but there is no one in special needs services available in the school due to lack of funding. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Perhaps he could give me, as an MLA, some advice in how I should respond to such calls from parents. The Minister himself said that children in the north deserve the level of service that is mandated in the Act, and I fully agree with him. But I do not know what to tell parents when they are in this situation. Your mind goes to volunteers. You do not know how to answer. Here is an example of a child who is not receiving an education suited to his special needs and will be growing up and going into society without a proper education. How do I respond to this kind of request?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 573-13(4): Special Needs Students' Services

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in that situation, the parent should first of all work directly with the Divisional Education Council through the DEA because the Act is quite explicit. The councils have responsibility for ensuring an educational program for all students in the schools. The department funds the councils to provide those services. If a parent believes that the needs are not being met, they should contact the DEC through their DEA directly to discuss their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 573-13(4): Special Needs Students' Services

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a new Member to this House, I have not seen a lot of Ordinary Members to emulate when it comes to the fine art of asking supplementary questions. This will be my final question. I was very impressed with this parent's effort

that she made on her own prior to calling me. She listed at least six agencies that she had already called including federal programs, social services, pathways, and the Department of Education, Cultural and Employment. She listed off at least six agencies that she had already written to and had provided a portfolio with information regarding her son's difficulties and felt that this was her last resort. So, I do thank you for the advice to go through the Educational Council and the DEA, but I am sure that you well know that the answer is going to be that the resources are already spread very thin. I know that to add to the funding available in this area would have taken away from some place else. I would be prepared to look at the budget and see where we could put more money into special needs. Does the Minister feel that there are other areas in education spending right now that could be redirected to this ever growing area of special needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 573-13(4): Special Needs Students' Services

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my answer to Mr. Henry, the department feels that the allocation among the formula right now in terms of how funds are decided and divided up to the DEC's represents the best balance given the needs that are present in our society. It is something that we review on a regular basis. As I indicated earlier, the amount of funding within the formula which the department sees as allocated to special needs has increased in the past two or three years annually. If we see the need increase, we would continue to do that. What that results in, of course, is a higher pupil/teacher ratio and decreased support for bussing. Those are areas where the department has said there needs to be a rebalancing. I think that from the monies that we have, given the targets that are set for the department in the budget by this Legislature, the allocation reflects the

Page 1385

best mix. However, it is something that we do monitor and if necessary, that mix can be changed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 574-13(4): Status of Mackenzie River Basin Master Agreement

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Renewable Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. It is in regard to the status of the Mackenzie Basin Agreement. Would the Minister indicate whether all the signatories have signed off and what the plan is in terms of implementation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 574-13(4): Status of Mackenzie River Basin Master Agreement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the Mackenzie River Basin Transboundary Water Master Agreement was worked on for over ten years. Finally this summer, all the parties moved to sign the agreement, with B.C. and Yukon being the final signatures to put their names to the agreement.

Since then, there has been some work done to look for board members to have those nominated and a small secretariat being established. There has been some work done to get this board set up with a secretariat established. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 574-13(4): Status of Mackenzie River Basin Master Agreement

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister anticipate when the board will be functional?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 574-13(4): Status of Mackenzie River Basin Master Agreement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I know that in the claims agreements, it sometimes takes years for boards to become fully functional. In this case we have quite a number of jurisdictions; Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, as well as ourselves and the federal government involved in this. So there is a sincere intent for all parties to come forward with their nominees and representatives as soon as possible.

I would expect on the outside to be able to say with some certainty when a fully functional board would be set-up. I would suspect that most of the parties would suggest that the location of the office of such a board will probably be left to the prerogative of that board when they become fully functional.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 574-13(4): Status of Mackenzie River Basin Master Agreement

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister briefly summarize, in the remaining twelve minutes of question period, what the anticipated benefits are of this agreement to the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 574-13(4): Status of Mackenzie River Basin Master Agreement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would not be using the eleven and half minutes to respond, beyond even my limited capabilities.

The TransBoundary Water Agreement does signal something very important to those of us of the Northwest Territories who live virtually downstream of all our neighbouring jurisdictions. Which is that our neighbours, for the first time, have signed an agreement that acknowledges that we have a tremendous amount of concern about the type of water that flows from their jurisdiction into ours, as

well as the type of activities that are carried on in those jurisdictions that will and could effect the quality of water that flows into the north.

They also acknowledge the quantity of water is something that is of importance to us and, having said that, I think that all of them are in agreement. They will do their utmost in reaching agreement to alleviate the concerns that we have had historically. That is, information about the kind of activities that could affect the quality and the quantity of water from all those jurisdictions will be made available to us and that will be shared on a basis that would reflect the concern that all of us have to be sure that everything that is done upstream is as transparent as possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 575-13(4): Guaranteed Mortgage Agreements

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time will be directed to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, during the summer I have had concerns raised to me regarding some of the work that is being done with the Housing Corporation, in particular with the Plan 2000 as it pertains to guaranteeing mortgages with the banks. I would like the Minister to tell us if there is an agreement with the banks in place to respond to the needs of the people in the territories in regards to the guaranteed mortgages. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 575-13(4): Guaranteed Mortgage Agreements

Page 1386

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later on during this session, I plan to give a more detailed report to the House on the status of our activities with Plan 2000. But to summarize, we had an immensely good summer on the building of houses. We had built or repaired 600

additional units on top of what we normally would have done if it was not for Plan 2000. As far as agreements with banks go, the Housing Corporation's senior staff have visited and met with every single branch in the Northwest Territories and have met with all the bank managers, some of them more than once, to explain the details of the plan. Although I do not believe there are actual agreements in place, the banks are much more involved and knowledgeable of the program and are therefore much more willing to provide mortgages, et cetera.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary questions. Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 575-13(4): Guaranteed Mortgage Agreements

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So if people in the community were to go for a mortgage and the banks considered them to be borderline, that is where the government's program would come in and guarantee their mortgage for a number of years, although they would get the money from the bank.

But there seems to be some difficulty on the part of the banks to recognize what has been happening here. I know of a particular case in my community where it seems like a number of times your staff has had to go to the bank to try to work this out. I am just wondering if that has been clarified with the banks, that they understand the policy and the program and that they will not have to keep going to their headquarters and seeing if they are able to work with the program.

Is it clear now with the banks or is there continuing work with the banks? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 575-13(4): Guaranteed Mortgage Agreements

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we are at the stage where there are still many clients that wish to build their own homes and use our Plan 2000 programs that are seen by the banks as relatively low risk. As the Member knows, banks do have very stringent

rules and, although they are in the business of lending money, they also look very carefully at the risk. Therefore, they take those precautions. That is where our program kicks in, where we do provide monies to assist home-owners, or home-owners to be, with their down payments.

If there are questions on the client's ability to pay back on the tax part, but in our view that those are good suitable clients, then we will in fact go to the bank with the client at times and try to help them out that way.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 576-13(4): Teenage Pregnancy and Family Planning

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services with regard to my earlier statement on teenage pregnancies and family planning. I would like to ask the Minister what his department is doing in this regard? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 576-13(4): Teenage Pregnancy and Family Planning

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are primarily supporting the boards in the development of awareness campaigns to deal with the issue. I think it is important to recognize the tremendous drain and pressure on our social programs as a result of escalating populations. I think we as leaders have to raise the profile of that issue and discussions at formal and informal meetings. I know that trustees at different boards have brought up the issue based on discussions with ourselves in trying to pass on the concern. I think the initiative has to come from the leadership throughout the territories in trying to instill in people the awareness of the issue and have it remain a priority item. I think it is also safe to say that in our strategic reinvestment initiative, which I have spoken about on a number of occasions, for the 1998/99 year, that public health issues will be one of the main priorities for reinvestment. I think issues

surrounding public health, such as population growth, will be one of those issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 576-13(4): Teenage Pregnancy and Family Planning

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the problem I see here is that we are looking at an ad hoc approach to the problem, by direction that the boards and trustees will hopefully find a way of coming up with a strategy. I do not think this is correct. I will ask the Minister, is he looking at some type of direction or government-wide initiative to help rebase money into budgets? Some direction from the department itself to actually facilitate the commercials, ads and awareness programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 576-13(4): Teenage Pregnancy and Family Planning

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would certainly be receptive to that, as I had indicated under the public health aspect of our strategic investment initiative. I think that is a particularly important initiative that we can take a look at as one of the focal points of the re-investment. I think it is safe to say we would have to also work with our partners and the education boards through the Department of

Page 1387

Education, Culture and Employment to co-ordinate efforts in respect to some of the programming that is available through the schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 576-13(4): Teenage Pregnancy and Family Planning

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister be directing the boards as the top authority on health and social services in the territories to actually facilitate family planning and goals toward looking at issues of teenage pregnancy, for example? Will he be issuing that type of direction, or is he going to leave it up to the trustees?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 576-13(4): Teenage Pregnancy and Family Planning

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am reluctant to issue directions. I think what I will say is we will certainly highlight the need to undertake these types of measures with our partners, the boards, in the delivery of the programs. I think it is safe to say they would recognize the same concerns in respect to the demands on the health care system as a result of the burgeoning population. As a result of that, it would also be in their best interest in the long run to undergo these same types of initiatives in raising the awareness of the issue of trying to curtail the high birth rates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question period is over. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports on committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 103-13(4): Letter Regarding Sanikiluaq's Concerns on the Recommended Nunavut Electoral Boundaries

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter written to myself from the Mayor of Sanikiluaq regarding public concern for recommended electoral boundaries.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents. Mr. O'Brien

Tabled Document 104-13(4):Review of Changes to Medical Services in the Keewatin and Baffin Regions

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Speaker, I would like table the document regarding Mr. Ng's review of the Keewatin health care.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, the meeting of the Standing Committee of Government Operations at 4:00 p.m. this afternoon; at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning the Ordinary Members' Caucus.

Orders of the day for Friday, October 3, 1997:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act
 - Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Companies Act
 - Bill 22, An Act to Amend the Corrections Act
 - Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Elections Act
 - Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act
 - Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1997-1998
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Page 1388
 - Tabled Document 93-13(4), Report of the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission
 - Bill 3, Family Law Act
 - Bill 4, Children's Law Act
 - Bill 5, Adoption Act
 - Bill 6, Child and Family Services Act
 - Bill 19, Municipal Statutes Amending Act, No. 2
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Just before we leave the Member for Baffin South has told me to recognize a couple of people in the gallery, but it is difficult to say their names, so I will just say that they are secretary and treasurer elected to the NTI. Welcome to the Assembly.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Friday, October 3, 1997 at 10:00 a.m.

--ADJOURNMENT