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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Jim Antoine, Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, Honourable Charles Dent, Mr. Enuaraq, Mr. Erasmus, Honourable Sam Gargan, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Honourable Don Morin, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Ningark, Mr. 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. Rabesca. Good afternoon. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 119-13(4): Nunavut Transition Planning

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Minister responsible for Nunavut Transition Planning, I am pleased to update the Assembly on key issues concerning the creation of Nunavut.

Last week, Minister Todd tabled the transition action plan. This plan provides a detailed review of transition issues and costs. This document will serve many purposes, and it is important, I believe, that we all share the same understanding of what this document is intended to provide:

- advice to all the parties and in particular, the Interim Commissioner, on what needs to be done in this transition period;
- for the Western Territory it provides a basis for planning; and
- for the federal government it is a comprehensive costing that identifies gaps in the transition funding necessary for implementation.

The Report on Transition to a New Western Territory, tabled by Minister Dent yesterday, supplements the transition action plan and will provide a starting point for the establishment of a strong and viable Western Territory.

In addition to the intensive communication effort we have put forward to date on the action plan, I plan to attend the upcoming NTI Annual General Meeting in Igloodik to discuss the transition plan and to emphasize the importance of working together toward our common goal.

Mr. Speaker, in the critically short time that we have, I urge all parties to conclude financing discussions on transition costs, with an appropriate agreement, as soon as possible. We need the security of knowing that appropriate funding is in place so that we can focus on the immense task at hand, that the current standard of programs and services are in place on April 1, 1999.

Although we are partners in this process, the Interim Commissioner is clearly in the spotlight. Mr. Anawak has the responsibility of creating a functional Nunavut government by April 1, 1999. As we have stated on many occasions, Mr. Speaker, this government will continue to support and provide assistance to the Interim Commissioner wherever required.

The Interim Commissioner will be using the decentralized model, set out in Footprints 2, to establish the Nunavut government. This includes planning for the establishment of headquarters functions in several communities and the repositioning of regional services to many other communities throughout Nunavut. The Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes the challenges facing the Interim Commissioner to implement the decentralized model before April 1, 1999, because it is largely dependent on the construction of the necessary offices and houses for Nunavut government staff and federal funding.

As I, and many of my colleagues, have stated on several occasions, the Government of the Northwest Territories strongly supports the decentralized model. We have also said that there are some efficiency issues that will need to be considered by the Nunavut government.

The office of the Interim Commissioner will also need to work with the Government of the Northwest Territories to ensure that Government Northwest Territories employees, occupying positions in

Nunavut, will be transferred to the Nunavut government with the existing terms and conditions of their employment intact. For new headquarters positions in Nunavut, it is our view that priority must be given to Government of the Northwest Territories headquarters employees wishing to relocate to Nunavut, subject to meeting the objectives of Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement.

The creation of a justice system for Nunavut is also an issue of critical importance. When we talk about a justice system for Nunavut, we are speaking of many different parts of an integrated system. There are the nuts and bolts of the structure. These include a Department of Justice that can provide legal advice to the government of Nunavut and draft new laws. It also includes a court system that will continue to provide essential services - judges, crown prosecutors and attorneys, justices of the peace, court workers and legal aid, to name a few. There are also the court registries and the registries where you can file corporate and land title documents.

It is of paramount importance that the Nunavut government have the capacity to continue these services on April 1, 1999.

Some of these functions will need to be up and running in Nunavut. Others may continue to be provided during a transition period through intergovernmental agreements with the Western Territory or other jurisdictions.

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Of course, having the basic structure in place by April 1, 1999, so that necessary programs and services are provided, does not prevent the Nunavut government from changing the system to bring it closer to the people and better reflect cultural values. I am encouraged when I hear that the Interim Commissioner wishes to consult with the people of Nunavut on the kinds of changes that could be made.

Mr. Speaker, I recently had the privilege of participating at the signing of the Nunavut Municipal Incremental Infrastructure Program in Iqaluit on September 19th. The agreement signed by Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister, Jane Stewart, and Maniok Thompson, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs; provides \$8.22 million to the territorial government to meet projected infrastructure needs in 11 Nunavut municipalities this year. This is a three year infrastructure program worth an estimated \$32 million.

The Nunavut government will need almost 700 new public service jobs. As a result of decentralization there will be a significant increase in the Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot regions' population. With the expected population growth, communities must be prepared to meet the new demands for municipal services: more site development for housing and offices, classroom space, infrastructure and municipal services will be needed.

The \$32 million in capital projects will upgrade and expand services such as water and sewage, fire fighting, schools and the site development for housing and office space. I am pleased to inform Members that all of the projects being managed by the Government of the Northwest Territories are proceeding on schedule.

Mr. Speaker, all Nunavut communities will benefit from the increased training and employment opportunities under the Municipal Infrastructure Program. Also, considerable effort has gone into providing appropriate training opportunities to prepare Inuit for the new positions in the government of Nunavut. Incremental resources provided by the Government of Canada supplements the \$100 million the Government of the Northwest Territories is already investing in education and training in the Nunavut region this year.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is an active partner in the Working Group on Human Resources and Training. In September of this year, while in Iqaluit, Minister Dent, on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, signed a Contribution Agreement with Minister Stewart to cover this year's funding requirement for the training programs under the Human Resources Strategy. We are now in the second year of the four year intensive training program, and this is perhaps the year in which most of the training will take place. In 1996-97 the strategy provided training for 232 Inuit, and it is anticipated that up to 400 students will enrol in 1997-98.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is also involved in delivering some of the training directly, in order to help prepare Inuit for jobs in the new government. For example:

- 21 people are training as middle managers in the Government of the Northwest Territories regional offices; and

- a program is in place to prepare Inuit for senior management positions, right now 13 people are in the program, and six more will soon be hired.

Preparation for Nunavut also requires changes to legislation. Until April 1, 1999, Nunavut and the Western Territory will be governed by the same laws. This legislative base will be inherited by each territory on April 1, 1999 and each territory will then be free to shape its laws according to its needs and wishes.

To assist this process a Statute Revision Commissioner has been appointed to prepare separate consolidations of the laws of the Northwest Territories as they will apply in Nunavut and in the Western Territory in 1999. This process has begun and will be completed 1999.

Our Assembly will be called upon to enact a number of measures to assist in the establishment of two territories. An important example is statutory measures to provide for a single Power Corporation and Workers' Compensation Board. It is critical that agreement be reached on these issues so that legislation can be introduced and enacted in the near future to establish a stable planning environment.

Federal legislative action will also be required. We are closely monitoring the progress of the Nunavut Act Amendments, which will also include an important amendment to the Northwest Territories Act.

Changes to the Nunavut Act are needed in order to allow for the election of a Nunavut Legislative Assembly that can take office on April 1, 1999. This change must be enacted early in the new year, in order to prepare for the Nunavut election. Other changes to the Nunavut Act are required to clarify certain sections so that we all know the legal regime in Nunavut on April 1, 1999.

In addition, federal legislative action will be needed to:

- provide for representation for Nunavut and the Western Territory in the Senate and House of Commons; and

- reduce the minimum size of this Assembly to 14 Members, pending the development of a new Constitution for the Western Territory.

It is critical for the Nunavut government and for this Assembly that these amendments get made as soon as possible and I will keep the Members posted on any progress.

The areas that I have outlined today are what I believe to be the immediate and priority issues for all partners in this process. April 1, 1999 is the first day of the new Nunavut government. There will be many issues that evolve and changes to take place, especially in the first few years. Many of these issues are for the elected Members of the new Nunavut Government to decide. For now, it is important that we keep our focus on the immediate and priority issues to

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ensure that the current standard of programs and services continue to be provided on April 1, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the challenges that are ahead will require an extraordinary effort on the part of many, and the cooperation of all of the partners in this process. I will be working hard, with this Assembly and my Cabinet colleagues, in particular Mr. Dent and Mr. Todd, to ensure:

- the continued cooperation of all; and

- the successful completion of these tasks, tasks which will ensure the creation of two new territories.

Most of all, we can not lose sight of the fact that, despite the complexity of this process, this is about: the realization of the long held aspirations of the people of Nunavut to have their own government.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 120-13(4): Pay Equity

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The purpose of this statement is to set out the government's plan for dealing with pay equity during the 1997-98 collective bargaining. The concept of pay equity, Mr. Speaker, is one that I fully endorse and support. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, how can one argue against the principle of paying employees equally for doing similar or substantially similar work as set out under the Northwest Territories legislation or doing work of equal value as provided for under federal legislation? The issue before us is not with the principle of pay equity. The issue before us today is one of uncertainty. How do we achieve pay equity? What

will it cost? Who are the winners and who are the losers?

As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, there is an outstanding pay equity complaint. That complaint has been referred to a Tribunal pursuant to the Canadian Human Rights Act. Mr. Speaker, addressing a pay equity complaint is an extremely complex process. It involves the comparisons of actual evaluations of positions with evaluations against a gender neutral job evaluation system. It involves statistical models for identifying and comparing female and male jobs to determine if there are any wage gaps. It involves the examination of reasonable factors that may justify differences in male and female wages.

Mr. Speaker, the UNW and the government have commenced a mediation process for examining these complex issues. The objectives of a mediation process are to facilitate a negotiated settlement of the pay equity complaint and to expedite the Tribunal hearing process in the event that negotiations are unsuccessful. We are hopeful, however, that the Tribunal process will be unnecessary as our objective for the mediation process is to structure a settlement proposal that we can table with the UNW at collective bargaining and place before the Tribunal.

Mr. Speaker, this brings me to the two other areas of uncertainty about pay equity that I mentioned. What is the cost? Who are the winners? Who are the losers? Mr. Speaker, there has been much speculation over the years about what it would cost to resolve the pay equity complaint. I will not add today to that speculation. In the mediation process the parties examine job evaluation data, statistical methodologies and reasonable factors to determine any gender wage gaps that may exist. The parties must negotiate a responsible and fair settlement that is acceptable to the government, the UNW and the employees it represents.

I realize, Mr. Speaker, that implementing a new job evaluation system and resolving the pay equity complaint will result in an overall increase in the cost of the public service. I am hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that we can absorb this increased cost through initiatives already taken to balance the books. It is important, however, that the issue be resolved with a negotiated agreement that is financially responsible. The challenge before us is to find a solution that makes everyone a winner. A settlement that we cannot afford would require further large scale program reductions. Mr. Speaker, the losers from large scale program reductions would be the population of the

north who rely on government programs and services and employees who would lose their jobs as a necessary consequence of such large cuts. Yes, Mr. Speaker, employees.

Mr. Speaker, as the elected representatives of the people of the Northwest Territories, we must put our support making pay equity in the Northwest Territories a winning proposition for everyone. To do this, we must begin to bargain in good faith and show willingness to compromise in a way that is in the best interest of the population of the North.

Mr. Speaker, today, I have served formal notice to the UNW pursuant to the Public Service Act to commence collective bargaining for the renewal and revision of the Collective Agreement that expires on March 31, 1998. My staff have been instructed to meet with the UNW and work out a schedule that will see this matter settled before March 31, 1998.

--Hear! Hear!

Mr. Speaker, let us put an end to uncertainty. Let us turn the situation around and make everyone a winner. Let us advance the rights of women in the Northwest Territories by finding a pay equity solution that is financially responsible and fair. Let us lend our support to the government and the union negotiators in finding an early settlement, one that can be recommended to this government and union membership for ratification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 121-13(4): Nunatsiaq News Article

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to make a statement as Minister responsible for the Status of Women. I am disturbed about an article found in the October 3rd edition of the Nunatsiaq News. The article reports on a church minister who resides in Kuujjuak, Northern Quebec and was charged and pleaded guilty to four sex charges involving young girls. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply angered and concerned with statements that were made during the course of this trial. A long time friend

of the accused, who is also a clergyman, gave evidence at the hearing that crimes committed by the accused were not actually crimes at all in the Inuit culture.

--Shame! Shame!

In fact, he further claimed that the actions of the accused were acceptable in the old Inuit traditional ways of treating young women so that they may feel proud of their womanhood.

Mr. Speaker, crimes against women and children, particularly if they are of a violent and sexual nature are absolutely not acceptable in any culture. Crimes against women have never been acceptable in the Inuit culture. They are not acceptable now and were not acceptable then. Mr. Speaker, we cannot and should not accept the excuse that this type of behaviour is part of the old Inuit culture. I hear too many of these excuses used by both aboriginal and non-aboriginal people. I believe these excuses about what is acceptable in the Inuit culture, and in general in the aboriginal community, is exactly that an excuse. Hopefully, the justice system will continue to see this for what it is, a weak and poor excuse, and will continue to punish the guilty with appropriate sentences.

Although this incident occurred in another jurisdiction, I believe that it reflects on women and the Inuit culture as a whole. Let me assure you, Mr. Speaker and Members of this House, that activities of this nature have never been and should never be considered part of the Inuit culture. Actions of this nature against women and children must never be considered acceptable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Just to remind the Minister that with regard to the statement, it is a sensitive statement, but also you added a bit more that deviated from your main statement which was not recorded and filed with the Clerk. Thank you. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Roland.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 481-13(4): Job Creation

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for two years we have chased the budget and for the next 18 months, it seems as if we will be chasing the deadline to April 1, 1999. Now we know that these are important issues, but to many northerners, we are missing the most important of issues. Mr. Speaker, jobs are what many northerners are looking for, the ability to put food on their tables and to buy warm clothing for their children. I sometimes think that we have forgotten what it felt like to not have any money to provide for our families. Indeed, some here may not have been in that position before.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard and seen the difficulties of many northerners. Many here would say, we know what it feels like to be in that position. I would say that you do not know until you have been there. That is why I say we need to spend as much time on the issue of jobs as we have on reductions, as much time on the issue of jobs as on division or should I say the creation of two new territories. Mr. Speaker, I will give you the example of what I believe can be done. It has the potential to impact many people. It can provide training for surveyors, engineers and operators. It would further open the door to winter tourism. It would not only create a much needed training in jobs, it would also join the Beaufort Delta with the rest of the Western Territory. There are many other positive impacts, too many to list in a short time that I have.

Mr. Speaker, I speak of a road that is already built for the most part. You see right now during the winter months we have the ability to drive from the southern Northwest Territories all the way to Fort Good Hope. What we need to do is to complete this winter road up to the Dempster Highway and preferable to Inuvik. Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to train people, to put people to work. All we have to do is to decide that this is a worthwhile venture. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 482-13(4): Commercial Fishing Fuel Tax Rebate

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the commercial fishermen of the Northwest Territories are struggling to earn a living. With the present economic

times and marketing conditions, it is extremely hard for them to do so. A substantial component of the expense of commercial fishing is the cost of fuels, gasoline and diesel. These fuels are required for boats, bombardiers, generators; all equipment which do not use roads or highways. Yet, with every litre of fuel that the fishermen purchase, they contribute an average of ten cents to the maintenance of the territorial road system.

In the Northwest Territories, we have the Petroleum Products Tax Act, which sets the taxes on various petroleum products. Mr. Speaker, a portion of this taxation does not recognize that there are many who must purchase fuel for vessels, machinery and equipment that is not used on roads or highways.

An honourable Member brought this issue to the attention of the House in 1995 and suggested that the government review its policy on taxing fuel. Mention was made at that time of a program in the Prairie Provinces whereby farmers receive breaks on fuel taxes through the availability of a product designated as purple gas. The government of the day decided that it would be too costly to administer and I agree. It would

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be cumbersome and the costs would probably outweigh the benefits.

Mr. Speaker, there is another way. This would be in the form of a rebate. When commercial fishermen purchase quantities of fuel, their receipts could be sent back to the government annually for a rebate of the tax which applied to the road maintenance. This system would not require the colouring of fuel or delivery of the refund at the pump and would not be costly to administer, but it would rectify the unfair practice of taxing enterprises that do not use the infrastructure of roads and highways.

Mr. Speaker, this proposed rebate would not be breaking new ground. The Treasury Department in Alberta uses a rebate system for commercial off-road industries. This government implemented a commercial power subsidy rebate program based on annual submissions with accompanying receipts in the past. I would not see this rebate as being much different. I have a suggestion which could facilitate this assistance to the fishermen while not disrupting the support that the fuel tax provides to the cost of our road system. Each winter, the private sector along with the territorial government spends additional

dollars on an expanded winter road system for the seasonal delivery of products to off-road communities and to mine sites.

Between January 1 and March 31 in 1997, the Department of Transportation issued permits, licensing heavy trucks, totalling 1,040 in number and a total revenue was generated of \$393,236. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Hay River is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays, Mrs. Groenewegen, you have unanimous consent.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Licenses to operate heavy trucks can be purchased on a quarterly basis. One suggestion may be a minimal surcharge on the licenses purchased for the winter hauling quarter. I believe this could be adequately rationalized given the higher cost of winter road construction and maintenance and the intensive seasonal use of our highway infrastructure. Whether this proposed offset of revenue lost created by rebating commercial fishermen is considered appropriate or not, I request that the Departments of Finance and Transportation give serious and prompt consideration to the implementation of a program which will eliminate payment of fuel tax applicable to roads for the commercial fishermen of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 483-13(4): Naming of the New Western Territory

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are 533 days until division and the creation of two new territories. In the west it seems apparent that the constitutional process will continue past division. This leaves the naming of a new Western Territory to be resolved prior to division. Mr. Speaker, I would like to suggest that this should be put back on the agenda and the name decided on by next spring by the people of the Western Territory. Giving a name is a

very important, symbolic event, especially as part of the creation of a new Western Territory. Mr. Speaker, we need a northern name with meaning and significance to the people of the Western Territory. Right now we are named after a direction on the compass. We are northwest of what, Mr. Speaker? Northwest of Ottawa. That was hardly of northern significance then, and it is of even less significance now. I can think of no other jurisdiction in North America that is named after the direction on a compass. Mr. Speaker, you have to just look around our neighbours. You have the Yukon, you have Nunavut, you have Saskatchewan and Alberta. All fine names with meaning to their people. I once again put forward the name of Nahendeh for consideration. Our land, Mr. Speaker. A strong name, a northern name. Nahendeh, our land for all the people of the Western Territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 484-13(4): Municipal Funding Formula

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to bring forward a concern that has had an impact on my home community of Rae-Edzo for a number of years. I realize that this government and previous governments have tried to make the Municipal Funding Formula as equitable as possible. However, due to the unique situation in Rae-Edzo being one of the largest non-tax-based communities and the fact that over the years Rae-Edzo has concentrated on developing a private economic base instead of relying on this government to provide capital infrastructure, we have been short changed when dealing with the current formula. This formula deals with how much funding each non-tax based community receives to perform their day-to-day operations. However, when the officials try to use this to determine the funding of Rae-Edzo, it falls short due to the size of the community in the lack of public infrastructure. One of many areas that this formula does not address is the issue of protective services. There is not enough dollars to provide for by-law enforcement. I believe this is not just an issue from Rae-Edzo, but territorial wide one.

There are many concerns that I know the honourable Minister of MACA is addressing through the municipal funding review that is currently taking place. I hope this review will show that there are still inadequacies which have become apparent over the past number of years since the last change in the funding formula and will also come up with the equitable solutions for all communities across this vast land. I would also like to inform the Minister that later today I will be asking her some questions regarding this important issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 485-13(4): Health and Social Services Draft Strategic Plan

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MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week Dr. David Butcher, the president of the Northwest Territories Medical Association and Paula Lessard, executive director of that association, presented a briefing on the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Draft Strategic Plan to Members of the Standing Committee on Government Operations. I attended that meeting and will paraphrase the comments and remarks Dr. Butcher presented on behalf of his association.

The Medical Association submitted a written report to this government a while ago and is awaiting a response from the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Kelvin Ng. The work to prepare a strategic plan was sole-sourced to Med-Emerg International. The Northwest Territories Medical Association advises us it was not informed nor consulted that a contract of this nature was to be awarded. The association expressed its concern with the very short notice from the time of the announcement of the project to the completion of interviews. The medical profession in particular was to be interviewed on a very ad hoc basis and by only one or two members of the total team.

It therefore begs the question, was the whole interview process conducted in a whirlwind tour of northern communities. I understand that the bulk of the consultation and preparation of the report was based on interviews with departmental staff and

review of reports and documents previously prepared by departmental staff or commissioned by the department. If this is correct, a critical review and analysis of the strategic direction with regard to reform was therefore limited. The Medical Association had concerns regarding the lack of specific northern experience of the consulting team. The choice of team members was left to Med-Emerg. Only four of the 16 member team listed any prior work in the Northwest Territories and familiarity with northern health care. This of course leads to a specific concern that the report could be potentially biased in favour of health care reforms currently under way in southern jurisdictions without an adequate reflection of the unique geographical and cultural environment of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The association contends that many of the recommendations made in the report do not differ significantly from those made in previous reports and studies commissioned and/ or written by members of the Department of Health and Social Services.

In fact, many of the recommendations and much of the text reflects an approval of health care reforms already proposed and initiated by the department. The Medical Association contends that most of the analyses and recommendations could have been derived and in many cases have been made prior to this report. The overall sense by the association is that the report provides little new input to the discussion and process of health care reform. That association states that on reviewing the report, many of the same concerns remain and are unresolved. It is the opinion of the association that the report does not represent good value for money. The cost of the contract was a reported \$500,000 and \$250,000 in expenses. This is done at a time when health care expenditures are being curtailed and cut. Therefore, such a large sum of money for a report requires close examination. In the spring, I expressed concern in this House how this project was awarded. Dr. Butcher has similar concerns with the overall cost of the report, given the current fiscal climate and health care cuts.

What is important is where we go from here. Later today, I will ask some questions in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 486-13(4): GNWT Division Transition Action Plan

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the transition action plan as released by Mr. Todd poses many questions, but also gives some direction and addresses the magnitude of the decisions and work that has to be done before April 1, 1999. It is not a perfect document, but it is a starting point that will be discussed and evaluated by the effected parties.

The issue of funding. A funding shortfall as presented by the federal government is outside the scope of the monetary ability of this government. On April 1, 1999, when Nunavut begins, we want it to be successful and properly financed. Over the next several months, the continuing negotiations and the gross expenditure base for Nunavut and the new Western Territory will be decided, but this does not impede this government or the federal government to help facilitate a smooth transition so that on April 2, 1999, Nunavut residents will still be able to access programs and services, receive their pay cheques, attend school, et cetera. This is what the transition action plan outlines. Nothing less, nothing more. Mr. Speaker, this government has reiterated its commitment to decentralization, and now it is up to the federal government to help pay the cost of the recommendations made in Footprints 2. The document is advice to all parties and to the Interim Commissioner. The gaps in the funding to date have been identified and the time line is getting shorter to division. Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Nunavut Caucus to call another Nunavut leaders' meeting to address the transition action plan, and the work that has been done and has to be done by April 1, 1999. Later today, I will be asking the Minister for Division questions on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 487-13(4): Child Advocacy Group

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is in regard to a child advocacy group in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, within our government we have many areas where people can go for help. The sad thing about this is the agencies, groups and the government that do support and promote programs are predominantly for adults. The Northwest Territories, despite the review of the Family Law Act, has not looked at the area of a child advocacy group. In other jurisdictions in Canada, six out of nine provinces have a child advocacy group. In regard to the many concerns and

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issues that affect children in the Northwest Territories, I believe that a predominant number of our population are the youth. Yet, Mr. Speaker, we have made decisions in this House that affect children. The cuts to programs and services, that affects children and the decisions that we make will affect the future generation of the people we represent.

The issues that affect children today, such as alcoholism, drug abuse are important because children are possibly the most valuable resource and asset that we have because the future of the Northwest Territories is our children. Yet, today, we talk about the Family Law Act with no consideration of the family law bill. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be asking the Minister questions on this particular matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 488-13(4): Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors

MR. HENRY:

I rise today to acknowledge a group of individuals in my community who are deserving of our recognition. Mr. Speaker, this group calls themselves YACCS or better known as Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors. This group of individuals have played a significant roll within our community on behalf of our seniors. They are instrumental in fund-raising for the construction of the Baker Community Centre, a facility specifically for

seniors. It was not an easy task, Mr. Speaker, especially in light of the financial restraint our community and residents have been under in the past few years, but they did it!

Mr. Speaker, they did not want to stop there. They had accomplished their goal. The Baker Community Centre was built. Over the summer this association, YACCS, updated their mission statement, developed a vision statement and looked at the issues facing seniors, not only those in Yellowknife but in other Northwest Territories communities. They have determined their goals and strategies to follow for the next two years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share some of their future strategies with my fellow Members while keeping in mind, this community-based group of individuals may one day be representing you and I when we are seniors:

-they are pursuing accredited status for Aven Manor through the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation,

-negotiate a new collective agreement with the Union of Northern Workers for centre staff,

-explore the feasibility of building a nursing home for the cognitively impaired seniors in the Western Northwest Territories and improve the current facilities and

-develop policies for the Board to ensure the community composition is reflected.

Mr. Speaker, we are very lucky to have such a committed group of individuals at work within our community. I ask that my fellow Members join me in recognizing the Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors and wish them our very best in realizing their goals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 489-13(4): Clyde River Capital Spending Levels

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon. Within my riding I have a community that is very frustrated with government. Clyde River does not have a large

population, around 750 people. When it comes to capital spending they feel they are often told they will have to wait. It seems that other communities do not have the same difficulty getting money for their capital projects. It also seems that other communities do not have to wait as long.

In the 1998-99 year, a number of projects are proposed to be done in Clyde River. The community hopes that the projects will be done. All of the projects have been waited for. What the community wonders about is why it takes so long. Clyde River hopes that other small communities are not having the same problems when it comes to capital spending. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to recognize, first of all, three former constituents of Cambridge Bay, Helen Blewett, Chad Blewett and Tyler Blewett, who as of this week became residents of Yellowknife South. Other constituents who happen to be in town, Millie Angulalik, my mother-in-law; Margaret Kablook Nakashook and my sister-in-law, Betty Nakashook, and of course accompanying them is my wife, Susie and our son, Trenton. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 677-13(4): Funding for the Creation of Two New Territories

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time will be directed to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd. Has the Minister been advised if the position of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs has changed, concerning the transition costs

and the creation of two new territories from what you announced last week? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 677-13(4): Funding for the Creation of Two New Territories

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know my honourable colleague, as well as a number of others, have

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expressed some concern with respect to comments that may have been made by a federal employee who is in the Nunavut secretariat. With respect to the fact, she is employed and there is no new funding and that it was the creation of one territory. I want to assure my honourable colleague that I have no reason, no reason whatsoever to doubt that in my discussion with Ms. Stewart, the federal Finance Minister, she is committed to putting a table together to answer the questions that I asked her, as it relates to adequate funding and the creation of two territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral Questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 678-13(4): GNWT Division Transition Action Plan

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my statement was on the Nunavut transition planning. My question is for the Minister responsible for Nunavut transition planning, Mr. Arlooktoo. Could the Minister update this House, if the government has received an official response from our partners, NTI and the federal government of the transition document? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Deputy Premier, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 678-13(4): GNWT Division Transition Action Plan

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer is no. We have not received the official responses to the documents.

We are however, in daily communication with members of the NTI executive and the federal government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco

Supplementary To Question 678-13(4): GNWT Division Transition Action Plan

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, does the Minister anticipate that we will have a Nunavut caucus meeting to discuss the transition document and other issues surrounding the creation of Nunavut over the next few weeks? Would he be contacting the parties? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 678-13(4): GNWT Division Transition Action Plan

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the Member was asking about a Nunavut leaders' meeting rather than a Nunavut caucus meeting. I understand the government has received a request from the president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, asking for such a meeting to be held. I am planning to meet with Mr. Kusugak on the 27th of this month to discuss such a possibility for a meeting.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 678-13(4): GNWT Division Transition Action Plan

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the transitional document has now been made public. Will the Minister or any of his staff, be going to some of these centralized communities or other communities in Nunavut to explain the document and to present it in the light it has been presented in this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 678-13(4): GNWT Division Transition Action Plan

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important for us to wait for the response from the federal government, from the NTI and from the Interim Commissioner on our transition action plan. It is also important for MLAs to be communicating with their constituencies, especially the communities that are affected by the decentralized model. I did mention earlier today that I am planning to present a briefing to the annual general meeting of NTI on the 27th, in Igloolik and in the process on the way to that meeting, I will be meeting with some other officials in Iqaluit.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 679-13(4): Property Management Transfer Discussions

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. It is in regard to the negotiations that are currently underway with Public Works and Government Services Canada, in regard to the provision of property management and building maintenance services in six western Arctic communities. Could the Minister elaborate as to what is being covered under those discussions, please?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 679-13(4): Property Management Transfer Discussions

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The territorial government was approached by Public Works and Services Canada earlier in the year to see if we were interested in taking over the maintenance and administration of some 600 or so residential units and several other facilities that are owned by the Government of Canada. This is part of the nation wide program that the Public Works and Services Canada is into, which

is the privatization of these services. In receiving the request from Public Works and Services Canada, I approached our own Cabinet and received permission to enter into negotiations that the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation could take over the maintenance and administration function.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 679-13(4): Property Management Transfer Discussions

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MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate or confirm whether there will be adequate resources transferred from the federal government so that, in fact, local housing authorities do not end up having to use some of their own very valuable resources to help the federal government maintain their own? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 679-13(4): Property Management Transfer Discussions

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the conditions that our own Cabinet implied in giving their permission for negotiations is that there be no reduction in services of the LHOs because of this contract. In fact, it was necessary as a result of taking over this contract, there would be additional resources through fees et cetera, and that is our starting position. That is how we intend to negotiate and conclude the arrangement.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 679-13(4): Property Management Transfer Discussions

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that the six communities are: Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells and Inuvik. Could

the Minister confirm whether the federal staff in those communities and the local LHOs have been involved and are up to speed on what is happening with the negotiations? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 679-13(4): Property Management Transfer Discussions

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the latest information on the consultation with the communities or the staff. I understand it certainly is our intention to include them as much as possible in the process and to ensure the present Public Works and Services Canada staff that may be involved in these functions are offered the current employment that they have.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 679-13(4): Property Management Transfer Discussions

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate when he anticipates this agreement will be signed off? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 679-13(4): Property Management Transfer Discussions

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can certainly get the information from our officials on exactly when, but as I recall, the target dates for the conclusion of negotiations is early in November and for the program to commence on April, 1998.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral Questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 680-13(4): Children's Advocate for the NWT

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng, regarding child advocacy in the Northwest Territories. Within our government, we have many areas people can go for help. The sad thing about this is the agencies and groups our government support are predominantly directed towards adults. The Northwest Territories drastically needs a child advocacy group, where children can go over issues related to child welfare matters. Six out of nine provinces have child advocacy groups. My question, Mr. Speaker, is will the government pursue a child advocacy office for the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 680-13(4): Children's Advocate for the NWT

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been an issue that has warranted some investigation and in particular when developing the new Child and Family Services Act that has already been passed by the Legislature. I can say it is an issue we are cognizant of but at this time, we feel that the bill, the Child and Family Services Act which has been passed, gives ample opportunity for individuals and organizations to become more actively involved in child welfare matters in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 680-13(4): Children's Advocate for the NWT

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister develop an avenue for children to pursue their rights, to ensure they can live their lives from harm and be able to find direction, so they are able to access these problems that you mentioned?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 680-13(4): Children's Advocate for the NWT

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, we believe there are avenues in the Child and Family Services Act to allow for greater involvement for individuals or groups advocating on behalf of children. There are also adequate measures in respect to some of the programs and services for counselling and support for children and their families as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Supplementary To Question 680-13(4): Children's Advocate for the NWT

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister ensure that the children have some office outside the Department of Health and Social Services where they can go for assistance in regard to advising the children of their rights and programs available for those children?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 680-13(4): Children's Advocate for the NWT

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot commit to that at this time until obviously, we see how some of the mechanisms within the Child and Family Services Act plays out. If there is a determined ongoing need to look at that type of an initiative, it would be something that we would look at, but that would be a later time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 680-13(4): Children's Advocate for the NWT

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the Minister's comments of the timing of getting this information to us. Could the Minister be more specific in regard as to when he can have this information available to myself and this House?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 680-13(4): Children's Advocate for the NWT

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Child and Family Services Act is planned to be enacted sometime early in 1998. I would think that as training and implementation takes place, to get that up and running, it would not be until after the Act was in place and communities, individuals and organizations have had an opportunity to work with the new bill before we will take another look at whether or not other measures are required, Mr. Speaker. I cannot give a definite date on when we would be progressing on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 681-13(4): NWTMA Response to Med-Emerg Report

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Kelvin Ng, Minister of Health and Social Services. The Northwest Territories Medical Association has not been kind in its review of the Med-Emerg report which was a voluminous and expensive study. I am wondering if the Minister could tell us if he has reviewed a submission made by the Northwest Territories Medical Association to this government, if he has had an opportunity to review the association's report?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 681-13(4): NWTMA Response to Med-Emerg Report

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member is correct. The Northwest Territories Medical Association did provide some critical input into the report. By the same token, I think there has been positive input as well from boards that have received it. I have not had an opportunity to, in detail, go over the Medical Association's concerns. I am aware of it. They have suggested a meeting with myself and my officials to enter into some more discussions on this matter. It is a matter of timing to set up that meeting, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 681-13(4): NWTMA Response to Med-Emerg Report

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the next step in the process will be a strategic plan based on the Med-Emerg report. To me, the Northwest Territories Medical Association, the people that are delivering the health services in the territory, is an extremely important group. I would think that the Minister should place priority on a meeting with that group and diligently and conscientiously listen to their concerns. I am wondering if the Minister will expedite a meeting with that association so that issue can be resolved. To me it was very disturbing to hear their criticisms. I think it is an area that we should be very sensitive to because these are the people that deliver the programs. Will the Minister assure me that he will expeditiously hold a meeting with the association and listen to their concerns with great attention?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 681-13(4): NWTMA Response to Med-Emerg Report

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly we recognize the importance of their input. It has not been totally disregarded. As I indicated, we do have their response to the strategic plan. I would like to say that the Northwest Territories Medical Association is not the only deliverer of health services in the

Northwest Territories. They are an integral part of it, but we have to look at the whole system in itself and that is why we commissioned this broader report to look at the entire Northwest Territories and trying to develop an integrated system. Yes, in as timely a fashion as possible, I will commit to meeting with the Medical Association to go over the details of their response to the draft strategic plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 681-13(4): NWTMA Response to Med-Emerg Report

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Minister for assuring me you will pursue that. The strategic plan in regard to the Med-Emerg

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report is to be concluded sometime this fall. Could the Minister tell us when he is looking at the next stage of this plan?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 681-13(4): NWTMA Response to Med-Emerg Report

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated in the past, the boards throughout the Northwest Territories have undertaken a major consultative effort with the draft strategic plan. At the same time, the department has provided it to organizations and associations throughout the Northwest Territories, such as the Medical Association, for their input. Our timeframe on receiving of the feedback from those consultations will be obviously later this year. We are into October now, so I will anticipate by late October, middle of November, trying to put together a final strategic plan later this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 681-13(4): NWTMA Response to Med-Emerg Report

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the next stage be the presentation of another report that can be circulated for a final look at what the strategic plan will be, a report that will be submitted to the various organizations, boards, associations, Medical Association, the Nurses Association and so forth? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 681-13(4): NWTMA Response to Med-Emerg Report

HON. KELVIN NG:

Certainly, Mr. Speaker. Once we receive the feedback. Obviously, we would take into consideration what the stakeholders and what the public have as issues. We would mold that into a final strategic plan that I would anticipate on tabling in this House early in 1998 and provide opportunities for further input and consultations before finalization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 682-13(4): Municipal Financing Review

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I spoke about the problems the Hamlet of Rae-Edzo has regarding the municipal funding formula concerning a review of funding formula. My question for the Minister of MACA, is will the department currently be doing a review of funding formula. What is the timeframe for the completion of this review?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 682-13(4): Municipal Financing Review

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to first thank the Member from Rae-Edzo for bringing the problem forward to me in regard to the municipal financing formula. These are the types of comments we need for the review. The final recommendations will be reviewed at next year's NWTAM, which is the Association for Municipalities' Annual General Meeting in May of 1998. The recommendations have to be reviewed first, before finalizing this municipal financing review with any of our communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 683-13(4): Ministerial Forum on Student Financial Assistance

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance and I see he is not here. I will ask my question to the Minister of Education Culture and Employment. My question is concerning student financial assistance. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has set up a student financial assistance forum that has been touring the territories investigating concerns with student financial assistance. I wonder if the Minister could update this House on the status of that forum? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Again, I would like to remind the Members, when Members are not in the House, not to mention them by name when they are not here.

Return To Question 683-13(4): Ministerial Forum on Student Financial Assistance

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the ministerial forum has concluded their public consultation. They have been writing the report, and I expect to have the report delivered to me by the end of October or early November, at the latest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 683-13(4): Ministerial Forum on Student Financial Assistance

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the Minister receives the report would he be tabling that in the House for all Members and the public to have an opportunity to see? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 683-13(4): Ministerial Forum on Student Financial Assistance

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will. I have promised to share the report with the Standing Committee on Social Programs at our next meeting in December. Soon after the House sits, following that, I will table the report.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Supplementary To Question 683-13(4): Ministerial Forum on Student Financial Assistance

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the ideas behind the committee looking at student financial assistance was because the Minister was looking at introducing some changes. I wonder if the Minister now will be delaying any type of change to student financial assistance until indeed the report is tabled in this House and that the Members of the committees have had a chance to look at that in conjunction with the changes that are being anticipated? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 683-13(4): Ministerial Forum on Student Financial Assistance

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the intention was always to discuss in this House the changes or potential changes the program may have to undertake and to institute the changes in the fall of 1998, at the earliest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 684-13(4): Assistance to NWT Fisherman

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Finance. Today in my Member's statement I attempted to outline what I think is a measure that could be taken that would be of considerable assistance to the Northwest Territories fishermen. Is the Minister prepared to direct his staff to examine the ramifications of changing the tax implications to off-road vessels and vehicles through some form of tax rebate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Would the Premier like to respond to that? Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 684-13(4): Assistance to NWT Fisherman

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 685-13(4): Abuse of NWT Health Care System

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to Mr. Ng, the Minister of Health, regarding Northwest Territories' health cards. Mr. Speaker, concerns have been brought to me regarding the blatant abuse of the Northwest Territories' health care system whereby southern workers coming north on a seasonal or a temporary basis use the Northwest Territories health card system to supply proof of residency for northern employment. I have been advised of cases whereby employers are actually endorsing this practice, in

order to supply the northern employee component for contracts to receive benefits such as a BIP. The question to the Minister is, what mechanism does this department have in place to verify applicants have indeed been permanent residents of the Northwest Territories for three months prior to receiving their Northwest Territories' health card approval. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 685-13(4): Abuse of NWT Health Care System

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of that answer. So I will find out and advise the Member accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 685-13(4): Abuse of NWT Health Care System

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister be able to provide the annual number of applicants who request a Northwest Territories' health care card for the last few years? We can then compare those numbers of residents who have migrated into the Northwest Territories and figure that against the Northwest Territories' statistics. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 685-13(4): Abuse of NWT Health Care System

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will try to do that as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 686-13(4): Fort Good Hope Winter Road

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement, I talked about providing an opportunity to the people of Inuvik and the Inuvik region of possible jobs and training. This could include more than the Inuvik region, the Sahtu as well because I used the example of a winter road that right now during the winter months we can drive up to Fort Good Hope from Yellowknife. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Transportation, has there been any work done in the area of winter roads and specifically the winter road that goes to Fort Good Hope and pushing that north to Inuvik? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 686-13(4): Fort Good Hope Winter Road

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is no work being done to look at that possibility at the present time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 686-13(4): Fort Good Hope Winter Road

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MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this road, I mean a simple road, that does not take a lot of money to construct because it is over frozen ground. This is an opportunity for this government to show that we are looking in the area of economic development and jobs for the people of the area. If the government has not looked at jobs to date or looked at how it can do this, is it going to be done in the very near future? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 686-13(4): Fort Good Hope Winter Road

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe I could answer it this way. At the present time we have a winter road system from Wrigley up to Tulita to Norman Wells and to Good Hope and from Tulita to Deline. The purpose of the winter road is, even though it is a very short season the last few years, to resupply these communities with the big items like housing supplies, fuel and very large pieces of merchandise that we have to get into these communities. This has been an ongoing practice of this government to provide that service. With the amount of resources we have today and with the environmental problems that we have encountered the last couple of years with the federal Department of Oceans and Fisheries, we have been directed to focus our attention on the existing winter road that I just mentioned by improving the stream crossing and that is where our focus has been up-to-date. Perhaps, if we run into additional funding in the future, we will probably have to take a look at what the honourable Member for Inuvik is requesting; but at the present time, we are just focusing with our limited resources on what we have. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 686-13(4): Fort Good Hope Winter Road

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is disappointing news to once again be told or to hear in this Assembly that because of the lack of funding we cannot proceed with anything. I think it is time to look beyond that in new ways of achieving things and hopefully, maybe the Finance Minister listening across there is hearing this message that we find new ways of coming up with funding to provide for projects. I think that this issue needs to be dealt with and looked at. We have talked about the road for years and years it seems, even since I was a child, but I would like to know what would it take from the people of Inuvik and the Sahtu or the whole Western Territory to put this on the agenda or on the Minister's table. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 686-13(4): Fort Good Hope Winter Road

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you are looking at perhaps about 200 or so kilometres of new road between Good Hope and connecting up to Inuvik to the Dempster Highway, I believe. The department could probably take a look at it. I guess it is a starting point. If there are requests, then we could certainly take a look at it. Again, it is going to have to be a very long range plan. There is no harm in starting now to look at the long range plan. If that is the wish of the people in that part of the country, in the Delta and the Sahtu area; then if the requests come in, we will certainly take a look at it, but again, I am not promising anything. All we could do is take a look at it and perhaps maybe find a way of developing a plan on how that could be achieved in a very long term. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 687-13(4): Comments from DIAND Official

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board. Earlier, in question period, he made reference to a newscast at noon and comments made by a lady who works for the federal government that seems to contradict the position of this government and of apparently her own Minister. Will the Minister be clarifying the situation when he next talks to the Minister of DIAND and as well stressing the importance of avoiding mixed messages from people who work for her. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 687-13(4): Comments from DIAND Official

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as we speak, I have asked our office to get some clarity on the issue, but I can tell you today with full confidence, that the announcement I made earlier last week when I tabled the Creation of Two Territories document in which the federal Minister, Ms. Jane Stewart, committed to myself that she is prepared to sit down at the table to

look at transitional cost, et cetera is the one that I have no reason to disbelieve will not happen. It may in fact be a communications problem between the Minister's office and the staff who, I understand, are sitting in Iqaluit; but I have no reason not to take the federal Minister at her word when she committed to us that a table would be brought together to look at transitional costs and to move forward in an orderly way to reach a consensus on what course of action we are going to take to divide the territories into two. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 687-13(4): Comments from DIAND Official

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister consider being proactive in this case and somehow ensuring that information is transmitted to this mid-level functionary who lives in Iqaluit so that in fact she seems to be up-to-date with what is happening in the real world. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

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Further Return To Question 687-13(4): Comments from DIAND Official

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, as we speak, I am asking our Ottawa office to seek clarity on the issue that has brought about this question. I think that at the end of the day, I am confident as I have said that the federal Minister's position is clear. I think we indicated in a speech earlier last week and I have full confidence that we can proceed on the schedule and on the objectives that were set out in my opening comments when I tabled the division paper.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 688-13(4): Viability of Great Slave Lake Fishery

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Minister Kakfwi, the Minister of Renewable Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. It is in relationship to the fishermen and the resources that we have with fish in Great Slave Lake. We do have a tremendous resource there. This industry can provide a lot of employment, but the organization seems to be having its difficulties. Last year, the fishermen came to Yellowknife from Hay River and met with the Minister to discuss their difficulties. To the best of my knowledge not a lot of progress has happened since then to improve this industry. I understand that we are having difficulties getting prices for the fish that would make it economic for the fishermen to continue their occupation. I wonder if the Minister could tell us what this government is doing in terms of assisting the fishermen to develop their industry and make their occupation viable? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 688-13(4): Viability of Great Slave Lake Fishery

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is true that we met with the fishermen and their representatives last spring. The offer was made to the fishermen at that time that if they wish to see some action being taken to continue to see fishing as a viable economic activity, then they should take ownership of that initiative and tell me in very clear, simple terms what they want done and what it is that they are prepared to do in partnership with myself and the government in order to continue to make fishing an economic viable activity. I have left the fishermen to work with the MLA from Hay River who offered her assistance to work with officials from my department to come up with a plan and some suggestions on what they think is required in order to get that piece of work started. The work is still with them. I have not heard since. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 688-13(4): Viability of Great Slave Lake Fishery

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems that, and I can appreciate the Minister has met with the fishermen, but the onus has been put on the fishermen to come forward with a plan, but it is usual for our government to provide a lot of assistance and we seem to pour a lot of money into various industries. To me, this is an industry that is on a doorstep and yet I cannot buy a fish in Yellowknife at a decent rate without a lot of effort to find the location where I can get it. Now there is a private plant here and I am wondering if the Minister could tell us if that particular plant in the past years has worked fairly efficiently. Could the Minister tell us is there assistance being providing to that particular private enterprise? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 688-13(4): Viability of Great Slave Lake Fishery

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the specifics of the plant that the Member is speaking about and I am unable to respond to his question at this time. So, I will have to take it as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 689-13(4): Regional Government Funding

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Thompson. It is in relation to questions that were asked, I believe last week, by Mr. Steen in regard to the Keewatin Regional Empowerment Project. I would like to ask the Minister in regards to such a project, also the other aspect that her department carries out in regard to community empowerment and also the RICE teams that are presently in place in the regions to assist communities with community empowerment initiatives. I would like to ask the Minister what the cost to this government is for this new initiative and where the funds are coming from to carry out these initiatives for the smaller communities such as Aklavik? They have to fall within contribution guidelines that are in place for them to carry out these

community empowerment initiatives. I would like to ask the Minister where are the funds coming from to explore this new initiative especially in regard to the regional empowerment initiative that is taking place in the Keewatin and where are the funds for that and exactly do they have guidelines in place for them to carry that out?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were a lot of questions asked. Can the Member please ask me one question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Krutko, could you repeat your question again?

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was, where are the funds coming from to pay for this new initiative by your department to establish a regional government process in one particular region compared to the funds that have been already allocated for the community empowerment initiatives in communities? Where are the funds coming from?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Return To Question 689-13(4): Regional Government Funding

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HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Keewatin pilot project is not a regional government. My department has funds for community empowerment which is a priority of this government. Our staff are carrying out presentations on community empowerment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 689-13(4): Regional Government Funding

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try this again. Could the Minister state how much money has been spent to date on this initiative?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 689-13(4): Regional Government Funding

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nothing. Except for the cost of the ticket of the person that is going over to do the presentation to the mayors in the Keewatin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 689-13(4): Regional Government Funding

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some money has been spent besides the ticket and the time of this individual to go over to these meetings to make his presentation. Who is the person developing the criteria and the mechanisms can be used for this transfer? It must be costing someone money to do that. Could the Minister state the amount of money and exact amount of time that this individual is spending on the development of this new criteria?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 689-13(4): Regional Government Funding

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have staff in all the regions and the staff of Municipal and Community Affairs are doing their job which is promoting community empowerment to all the regions. As the Member also stated in his previous number of questions, he recognized the fact that we have RICE

teams in those regions. The cost of this proposal is staff time. Staff are doing their regular jobs by communicating and presenting to the mayors. This is our job as a Municipal Community Affairs Department to assist the community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 689-13(4): Regional Government Funding

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary is that there are guidelines presently in place in which each of the communities have to follow in regard to the amounts that they are allowed for a community such as the population of Aklavik which falls between 700 and 900 people. They receive \$30,000 for community empowerment initiatives. This is one project where communities can get funding. The other project that you announced in regard to the Keewatin looking at a regional government concept as a pilot project, is costing the government money. Is this the same money that is being used to carry out that project And if not, could you divulge to this House as to the amounts that were spent to date on that project?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 689-13(4): Regional Government Funding

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member did not hear my first comment. This is not a regional government. This is a proposal to the mayors of Keewatin, and we are spending money on our staff which have to do the job as the department's priority is community empowerment which is also the priority of this government. We are doing our job and with every other community. This is happening in the Keewatin. We are not creating a new regional government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 690-13(4): Road from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Minister for being able to complete the access road to Jean Marie River for a sum of \$1.6 million. That is the figure I have been given. This is a very economical road, considering the amount of miles being quoted, 27 miles, I believe the Minister said. My question to the Minister is, could he apply this very efficient matter of constructing road in other areas? For instance, the road from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk is estimated at 100 miles. We could build that road for \$5 million if we use the Minister's department and their construction procedure which seems to be very efficient. I wonder if the Minister would reconsider looking at the road from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk, considering how economical it is? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 690-13(4): Road from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the road to Jean Marie River, as I spoke in my language in my Member's Statement yesterday, as MLA to that area, was that it was 27 kilometres and the cost was about \$1.8 million. The original estimation was \$2.2 million, but we were able to get it done at about \$1.8 million. The manner in which it was done was that we used our own equipment. Transportation was able to obtain some used equipment and we used that. We contracted out a couple of people that managed the project for us and hired the local people on a training type of an arrangement. We did it in four summers, so much a summer and we were able to complete the road in a very successful manner. I think we benefited from getting the road done. The community benefited from it, by getting the road done, and of

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course, the use of it and the employment that was generated. We could probably look at that type of similar arrangements in an economic way of doing other roads. However, this was an access road into Jean Marie River and my predecessor started this

whole process and we just carried it through. I agree it was a successful way to do it. I do not know whether major construction of a major highway could be done with that type of arrangement. But certainly, if we are going to try and be efficient and effective in building in the north, we have to look at new innovative ways of doing it. Perhaps, this is an approach that could be seriously looked at to do other projects. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 690-13(4): Road from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I see the Minister has corrected the Hansard statement which was 27 miles. I understand now it is 27 kilometres of access road. Mr. Speaker, obviously there is a process or program in place that is more efficient than what we quoted or what is being used as the department's estimates to arrive at the department's estimates of constructions of roads. Now, Mr. Speaker, some people will refer to the road from Jean Marie River to a highway as an access road. I believe the Minister stated that is, in fact, the fair-weather road and some other people call it an all-weather road. But the end result is that it is a road and people can drive on it. We are not talking four-lane highway from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk. We are talking something very similar to what you have at Jean Marie River. I believe we are asking the department to be more realistic in putting forward the figures and estimates. Therefore, I would be asking the Minister if he would again, work closely with the communities of Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik to come up with a reasonable estimate of what that road incurs?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 690-13(4): Road from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the original estimate of the road between Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk was in the line of what is already existing up there from the Dempster Highway. Perhaps, it is

what the honourable Member is mentioning. It is something that is more scaled down than the Dempster Highway system and if that is the case, then it probably will not cost us as much as what the department is estimating. I will have to ask the department to take a second look at this one and see what it is exactly that the honourable Member is requesting, and we will work with the community of Tuktoyaktuk and also the town of Inuvik. I believe the department had already contributed some funding as to a study, towards how we are going to put it together. I look forward to looking at that study to see what this road between Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk would look like, as a preliminary estimation by the study. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Groenewegen.

Question 691-13(4): Fuel Rebate for NWT Fishermen

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question now is for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development who I am happy to see here today. I would like to thank the Minister first of all for the financial resources which he made available to the commercial fishermen, many of whom are from my constituency to undertake a strategic plan with respect to commercial fishing on Great Slave Lake. Just yesterday in Hay River, the commercial fishermen did have the opportunity to meet with officials from Mr. Kakfwi's department and consider options to make this industry long lasting and more viable. Time is of the essence, though. The winter fishery is almost upon us and one of the components that has been discussed from time to time is the issue of a rebate for the price that fishermen pay for fuel which would represent the portion that applies to taxes to maintain highways and roads. What I would like to ask the Minister is, is there cooperation that he could instigate from his department with the Department of Finance and the Department of Transportation that could see this program brought to reality? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 691-13(4): Fuel Rebate for NWT Fishermen

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the strategic plan that we are expecting to materialize in Hay River between the members of the fishing community with support from the MLA and officials from my department, I am pleased to hear a meeting took place. The idea of a rebate on fuel was raised as one of the elements that could possibly be requested by the fishermen in the meeting I had with them in the spring. There were a number of other issues and points of interest that were raised. I would expect that a package should be developed, some sort of a proposal from the fishermen, that would suggest a number of ways in which this government could act to help make fishing more economically viable and that if a fuel rebate is one of the points that is requested by the fishermen, then we would look at it as part of an overall package at that time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 691-13(4): Fuel Rebate for NWT Fishermen

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned before, time is critical on this and while this strategy is under way, I would like to ask the Minister, is he aware that if a rebate program were developed, what the necessary red tape or hoops that would have to be gone through in order to implement it? Would it have to come back to this House, for example, to be approved or could it be concluded as a departmental initiative in collaboration with the Department of Transportation and Finance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Two questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 691-13(4): Fuel Rebate for NWT Fishermen

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HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that once a strategic plan is packaged by the fishermen, then I would be prepared

as a Minister to work on it. As we say, time is of the essence. Any type of support or indication of positive action on the part of this government, I know, would certainly be welcome by the fishermen. By the same token, it is my view that they should take responsibility for initiating the development of a strategic plan presented to myself. I will work with the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Finance and the Premier to see how we should respond to their plan. I would think that we can act fairly quickly. Maybe not on all the elements of that plan as they will present to us, but certainly most of them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 691-13(4): Fuel Rebate for NWT Fishermen

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question of a slightly more technical nature. I was wondering if the Minister would be aware that if a rebate program is arrived at, would it be fiscally possible to make such a rebate program retroactive. In other words, should I tell the fishermen to start saving their receipts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 691-13(4): Fuel Rebate for NWT Fishermen

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe that is possible, but as I say, if time is of the essence, then they should put together a proposal or plan for consideration by this government as soon as possible, and we will act on it. If we do make some decisions then they will come into effect probably as of the day when these decisions are made and not be retroactive. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 692-13(4): Fisheries and Oceans Personnel

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Renewable Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. I have been informed that the officers from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, when they are in uniform, they wear guns, but I understand that at times these individuals are in the downtown area of Yellowknife, for example, going into the buildings. I am wondering if the Minister could tell us if he has the ability to find out why they are allowed to carry guns, for example, in the City of Yellowknife. Are there other officers from perhaps our government or other federal government agencies permitted to carry sidearms? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. I heard two questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 692-13(4): Fisheries and Oceans Personnel

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I have heard as well, unofficially, that there are officials working in the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans who are either obliged or feel obliged to wear sidearms in the course of their office duties in case they may be called to work in an environment that requires sidearms. I do not know of any situations recently where they have faced such situations, but it has been expressed as a concern by certain members of the public in the past. I am sure if we asked the federal Minister as to the reasons for such a need, there may be somewhere a rational explanation for such carryings on, so to speak. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral 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. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 3, members' statements.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife North is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 3, members'

statements. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Erasmus, you have unanimous consent.

REVERT TO ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 490-13(4): Best Wishes for a Happy Marriage

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to report a joyous occasion that occurred on the weekend when my youngest brother, Sean Erasmus, married his fiancée. Faye Ballis was born in Inuvik and now works in Yellowknife. They are both in their mid-twenties and work in Yellowknife. There was a small wedding with family members only. As I said, they both work in Yellowknife. They plan to go to school, and after which they will be making their home in Yellowknife, and I am sure all the Members here join me in wishing them all the best in their future life together. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Members' statements. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Picco.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the committee of infrastructure has many departments under it: FMBS, Personnel Executive, Aboriginal Affairs, as well as DPW and MACA. Yesterday, while the Minister mentioned that I was not in the House, I was actually attending a meeting with the SAO for my community during question period. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Infrastructure has reviewed Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act and wishes to...

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to remind the Members that the items on the table are for the House to follow. The Member went beyond what was written on the orders. It is to report the review of a bill. I would like to ask the Members to follow those

orders that are there. We are on item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Infrastructure has reviewed Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act and wishes to report that Bill 20 is now ready for consideration in committee of the whole. Mr. Speaker, I would seek unanimous consent of the House to waive rule 70(5) and have the bill ordered into the committee of the whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Iqaluit is seeking unanimous consent to waive rule 70(5). Do we have any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent and accordingly Bill 20 is put in committee of the whole for today. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 114-13(4): Alberta Treasury Information Circular: Fuel Tax Act Rebates of Alberta Fuel Tax

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document from the Alberta Treasury Tax and Revenue Administration entitled Fuel Tax Act, Rebates of the Alberta Fuel Tax, dated May, 1997. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

MOTION 24-13(4): Referral of TD 113-13(4) GNWT Interim Financial Report to Committee of the Whole

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 17, 1997, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE seconded by the Member for Keewatin Central that Tabled Document entitled Government of the NWT Interim Financial Report for the Year Ended March 31, 1997, be moved into committee of the whole for consideration.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion to table the document entitled, Government of the NWT Interim Financial Report for the Year Ended March 31, 1997, today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Yellowknife North is seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion on Tabled Document 113-13(4). Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Erasmus, you have unanimous consent.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Motion 24-13(4): Referral of TD 113-13(4) GNWT Interim Financial Report to Committee of the Whole

WHEREAS the Speaker, in accordance with section 4(2) of the Deficit Elimination Act tabled the Interim Financial Report for the Year Ended March 31, 1997;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly shall consider the Interim Public Accounts in accordance with section 5(1) of the Deficit Elimination Act;

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE seconded by the Member for Keewatin Central, that Tabled Document 113-13(4) entitled, Government of the NWT Interim Financial Report for the Year Ended March 31, 1997, be moved into committee of the whole for consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, that Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1997-98 be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 25 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by my honourable colleague from Yellowknife Frame Lake that Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1997-98, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Act to make supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1998. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 25 has had second reading and accordingly stands ordered to the committee of the whole. Second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1997-98 Tabled Document 108-13(4), Tabled Document 110-13(4), Tabled Document 113-13(4) with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

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CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

I would like to call committee of the whole to order. There are a number of items listed on the agenda before committee of the whole today. What is the wish of the committee. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I would recommend that we proceed with Bill 25 first, entitled Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1997-98, followed by Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Is the committee agreed? Thank you. We will resume after a 15 minute break.

--Break

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

I would like to call the committee back to order. The items before us today are Bill 15, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1997-98. Would Minister Todd like to introduce the bill, please? Thank you.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Absolutely, Madam Chair. Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2 requests authority for additional appropriations of \$16,185,000 made up of \$5,494,000 for operations and maintenance expenditures and \$10,691,000 for capital expenditures. A number of interdepartmental transfers are also included in this supplementary appropriation which do not require additional funding. The additional appropriations have been provided for in the estimated supplementary appropriation requirements included the 1997-98 main estimates or will be funded out of a new revenue source.

The appropriate requirements include \$7,998,000 for capital projects carried over from the 1996-97 year. These funds were lapsed in the 1996-97 fiscal period; \$1,578,000 for incremental costs associated with collective bargaining and dealing with the pay equity issue; \$1,299,000 for contributions under the Western Harvesters Assistance Program; \$3,108,400 to

replace and repair facilities damaged by fire, including the Pangnirtung High School, Fort Resolution firehall, several subsidiary businesses of the Northwest Territories Development Corporation, the Arctic Red River Ferry Camp and the Uttaqivik Centre Correctional Facility in Iqaluit. These fires are offset by insurance recoveries, less the deductible under the government insurance policy. The balance of requirements include approximately \$4,354,400 which will be directly offset by additional revenues. Thank you, Madam Chair. I am prepared to review the details of the Supplementary Appropriation Document, if you so wish.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Minister Todd. Would the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Operations like to make comments on the bill? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, it is my pleasure to provide our report on our review of the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1997-98. The committee met with the Minister on Tuesday, October 14, 1997 to review the proposed bill. The committee's review of the appropriation focused on five major areas:

1. Funding transferred between the departments or within departmental budgets, the majority to be attributed to the user pay/user say initiative.
2. Monies for capital projects that had lapsed in the 1996/97, fiscal year and were carried over to the 1997-98 fiscal year.
3. Funding for collective bargaining and pay equity issue.
4. Funding for government contributions to the Western Harvesters Assistance Program; and finally,
5. Funds identified to replace facilities damaged by fire while awaiting the settlement of insurance claims.

Some concerns were raised by Members of the committee about funding for the Government of Northwest Territories' Communications Strategy and the \$1.5 million to be spent in an attempt to resolve the pay equity issue. Members were also concerned that the Minister and his staff monitor the federal contributions to offset the cost of the runway extension at Deline and for the operation and

maintenance of the forward operating location in Rankin Inlet to ensure full recovery of the funding expended on these programs.

The committee was generally satisfied with the explanations provided by the Minister when he was questioned. Any additional questions on supplementary appropriations that the Members may have will be addressed by the individual Members. Madam Chair, this concludes the Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation, No. 2, 1997-98. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Is the committee agreed that the Minister should be allowed to bring witnesses at this time, if he wishes?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed. Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, if the Minister has witnesses, would you please escort them in? For the record, could I please ask Minister Todd to introduce his witnesses?

HON. JOHN TODD:

Pardon me, I cannot hear you. I am sorry.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. For the record, Mr. Todd, could you please introduce your witness?

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, on my immediate right is Mr. Lew Voytilla, deputy minister, Financial Management Services.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you and welcome Mr. Voytilla. Could I please direct the committee Members' attention to tab 25, in your green binders. Please pass over the bill, and go straight to the detail. We will deal with the detail of the bill first. That would be on page five, tab 25. Before we proceed, are there any general comments from the floor on the bill? General comments? There are no general comments. We will proceed with the detail. Government of the Northwest Territories 1997-98, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, department Legislative Assembly, O and M, Office of the Clerk, not previously authorized \$229,900. For those Members just coming in, we are on tab 25,

page five, detail of the bill. Total department not previously authorized, \$229,900.

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CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed? Thank you. On page six, Department of the Executive, operations and maintenance, executive offices, Cabinet secretariat, not previously authorized, \$106,500. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a question. I wonder if the Minister could give us just a very brief overview of the need and the direction of the Communication Strategy that is budgeted for here?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. We are not at that item yet. That is the next item. Cabinet secretariat, I will call again, \$106,500.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed? Thank you. Minister's offices, not previously authorized, \$226,000. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I wonder if the Minister could give us a brief overview and explanation of the reason for a Communication Strategy?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Minister Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

The Communication Strategy, of course, Madam Chair, is to communicate with the public in the north and to ensure that the message that we need to send to southern Canada is consistent with the policies and philosophies of this government. The general statement would be that. The Communication Strategy, for \$166,000 is a mix up between northern and southern contract; a combination of northern companies and southern companies. The southern companies, I will start with them first, are being utilized to get our message more clearly across to southern Canada, for example, issues like the revenue sharing with respect to the diamond issue that we have been discussing for the last two weeks.

We need to get a consistent, solid, concise message across to southern Canada. Issues like the Creation of Two Territories. These are the kind of issues that have a two part communications need, one in northern Canada advising the constituents what we are doing; and more importantly in southern Canada, where after all the majority of our money comes from and where there is an inordinate amount of control as to what kind of dollars this government gets. I am told it is approximately in terms of cost that between north and south expenditures, there is about two thirds spent in the north and about a third spent in the south, roughly.

Do we want to be specific as to the kinds of things we are doing? Is that what my honourable colleague wants?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

No. I wanted to get an overview and the Minister has stated that. I just wanted an explanation of it, in general terms. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. I have Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, my question to the Minister would be is any of the \$166,000 targeted to the Ottawa office?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do not think that there any expenditures for the Ottawa office. It operates under a separate budget. This is specifically in the domain of the press secretary and the responsibilities that she has, who reports to the Premier. There is no direct expenditures from the Ottawa office.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. I have Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I notice for the Western Premiers' Conference, there is \$60,000 allocated for that. There is also a comment, that it is an initial conference planning. Is there a projection of what the total amount will be for that particular conference?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Mr. Henry, thank you. Minister Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

No, we do not have a total dollar figure. It is not uncommon when you are extremely fortunate to get the opportunity to host a conference of this nature, that governments would allocate the dollars to it, to ensure that we do what is necessary and to do a top notch job so that we can represent the north well. I would also suggest to you that the return on investment, in other words, the dollars that will come into the country, will be far in excess of the dollars that we have allocated to ensure that this is a success.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Minister Todd. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I do not have any concern that what the Minister is saying is accurate. I think it can be taken for granted. What I wanted to know is, is there a budget figure on what this conference is going to cost? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Minister Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Madam Chair, \$60,000.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Did you get that, Mr. Henry?

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Is he suggesting that this initial conference planning is the complete cost, then?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

One can never predict the complete cost in the nature of these kinds of conferences. What we have done is budgeted \$60,000 to do the preplanning and do the necessary prepping for this very important conference. It may, in fact, cost less. Whether it will stay at \$60,000 at this time, but it is the budget figure we think is the reasonable amount of money to do the kinds of preplanning and prepare for this conference that will demonstrate to northerners and the rest of

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southern Canada that we are capable of hosting these kinds of high level conferences that bring significant fiscal benefits to the city of Yellowknife.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Ootes

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I agree with the Minister. This is a very good focus conference for the north and will be tremendously beneficial both at the time and in the future. Could the Minister tell us if any dates or approximate dates have been looked at?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I cannot confirm today what the dates are going to be. It takes a bit of give and take, given that the western Premiers are very busy people. I am not in a position today to confirm what dates they would be. As soon as they are, I am sure the Premier will be only too happy to announce it.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Department of the Executive operations and maintenance Minister's office, not previously authorized \$226,000. Agreed? Thank you. Financial Management Board Secretariat Directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$111,000. Agreed? Thank you. Human Resources Management Special Warrant, \$1,577,879. Agreed? Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you. I was trying to speak to the other issue, Madam Chair on the directorate. The 15 units that have been transferred to the staff housing units. I wonder if the Minister could inform me if that are 15 units that we were not able to sell? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, in keeping with the direction that Mr. Steen indicated earlier last year that would this government be prepared to transfer over to social housing, houses either we could not sell or we did not require the lease arrangements. This is exactly that and identifies the community where we have done it. Yes, you actually asked that question earlier in the year which was a good question to ask, and we have put in place the idea of transferring these houses where they are no longer required to social housing to meet the urgent overcrowding needs in our communities.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. So those 15 staff housing units have now been taken off the market. They will not be put up for sale, and they have been turned over to the housing associations in those communities and dedicated to social housing units, is that correct?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, that is correct. I should advise my colleague. They are not all government owned houses. There are, in fact, some leases that we no longer require. What we have done is transfer the leases and money accordingly so we can meet the housing shortage needs in some of these communities. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Return then to Financial Management Board Secretariat Directorate negative \$111,000. Agreed? Some Hon Members agreed.

Thank you. Human Resource Management Special Warrants \$1,577,879. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I would like to know if the Minister could give us an indication if this is sufficient to settle the dispute.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Mr. Steen and Madam Chair, this is not to settle the dispute, I wish it was. I would have settled it a long time ago. It is the Human Resource Management dollars required for us to move to negotiations, to deal with the tribunal staff, the service contracts are necessary for us to reach an equitable affordable agreement between ourselves and the UNW and the Human Rights Commission. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, what is the \$1,577,000 to be used for, just legal fees?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Madam Chair. It is a variety of issues. Of course, the one thing I did forget to say it is also an expenditure required for us to participate in the tribunal process. These dollars are for legal services and Mr. Steen is correct, tribunal staff, from services contracts required for expertise at the table, travel and accommodation, some equipment in that area. That is what these dollars are required for, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, does the Minister have or would it be appropriate to ask the

Minister at this time to give the committee what his overall cost might end up to be?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, it depends, if he is talking about this request for \$1.5 million, as I said earlier in my statement today, I am sort of hopeful and optimistic that all parties will come to the table and come to a timely, affordable and equitable arrangement and not selling my desire for public assumption so everyone knows I am on the record. That is my desire. My personal preference would be sooner rather than later that we come to an arrangement. I think that we are optimistic as we move towards negotiations that our partners in the process, the UNW, will come to the table with that in mind. Accordingly, I am giving clear direction to our staff that I

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want a settlement, and I want a settlement that is affordable. I think everybody knows there are some limitations to our fiscal framework, and I am again, reasonably confident that all parties will enter the negotiations with that in mind. If that is the case and with some optimism, we can see an arrangement before April 1, 1998 as I indicated in my speech earlier today. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I was not really asking whether or not the overall cost of the settlement would be. I was referring to the legal cost involved. What do we expect the legal cost to settle this dispute is going to be? We estimate here \$1.5 million roughly. What type of timeframe is that going to cover, six months, a year? Does the Minister have an estimate of how long these legal discussions are going to go on?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Nobody can second guess negotiations and how long they will take and the fact that we have come to this unfortunate situation where we were not able to make an arrangement with each other and have had to rely upon a third party to mediate. We are fairly confident, if we can meet and negotiate an affordable settlement by April 1, 1998, that the dollars we have here under the special warrant are sufficient to cover all the costs in respect to what we have to do with legal, tribunal, service contracts, travel accommodations and all the kinds of things necessary for our key staff. April 1, 1998 that is certainly our desire and that is why I made that clear in my comment to the above pay equity. We are fairly confident with those numbers that we can do that, and that is why we brought this in as a special warrant. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Department of the Executive operations and maintenance, human resource management, special warrants, \$1,577,879.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Agreed? Thank you. Government Accounting, not previously authorized, negative \$700,800. Agreed? Thank you. Audit budgeting and evaluation, not previously authorized, \$5,000. Agreed? Thank you. Total department, special warrants, \$1,577,879. Agreed? Thank you. Not previously authorized, negative \$474,300. Agreed? Thank you. Department of Finance, operations and maintenance, directorate, not previously authorized, \$59,400. Agreed? Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$59,400. Agreed? Thank you. Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, operations and maintenance, corporate affairs, not previously authorized, \$109,500. Agreed? Thank you. Community operations, not previously authorized, \$65,000. Agreed? Thank you. Regional operations, not previously authorized, \$135,000. Agreed? Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$309,500. Agreed? Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Regional operations to transfer from DPW, I am wondering if the service was previously provided by DPW. Is this some type of community empowerment initiative taking place through MACA?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Madam Chair, my honourable colleague is correct, this is required by the Dene First Nation in Hay River to do this work previously done by Public Works. Yes, correct.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. For the First Nation to take over this work from DPW, does that mean DPW laid off the employees who were doing that work or have they hired new employees? Would there be associated costs if this is transferred and they had to lay off the people, we would have to pick that up? I wonder is it just a straight transfer with the First Nations taking it over or indeed we had to lay off people to facilitate this or maybe did they hire the people who were doing the job previously? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do not have that level of detail with respect to this transfer, but this is consistent with the policy of this government in relationship with community empowerment. That is all we are doing here.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, operations and maintenance, regional operations, not previously authorized. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I appreciate that the Minister does not have that level of detail on supplementary appropriation. I am wondering if the Minister could actually look at the transfers that have taken place to see how many employees we have lost through this initiative. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Madam Chair. I will do that.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you. I am glad and appreciate the Minister confirming that indeed he will get back to me and let me know how many people lost their jobs through community empowerment by transferring services to different groups and organizations, operations and maintenance funding. I am wondering if the Minister would be able to do that in written form to me and if you can give me some indication as to when that information would be made available.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd.

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HON. JOHN TODD:

Madam Chair, we are dealing with a supplementary appropriation today. We are dealing with a specific budget of \$135,000. If the question is directed to the supplementary appropriation, my response would be I will look into that. My honourable colleague wishes a more elaborate detailed accounting of jobs being lost through transfers, I would suggest he ask that question in the House tomorrow. I will be only too glad to answer it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Regional operations not previously authorized, \$135,000. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I note that in supplementary appropriation there might be other areas in these numerous papers indicating the same type of activity. I was just trying to make it easier on the Minister's staff that when the opportunity came up, instead of having to ask the question for each individual amount, I would be able to get that information. I will ask that question in the House.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Regional operations, not previously authorized, \$135,000. Agreed? Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$309,500. Agreed? Thank you.

Department of Public Works and Services operations and maintenance, directorate, not previously authorized, \$46,300. Agreed? Thank you. Asset management, not previously authorized, negative \$576,000. Agreed? Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$529,700. Agreed? Thank you.

Department of Health and Social Services, operations and maintenance, community programs and services, not previously authorized, \$12,000. Agreed? Thank you. Support and health administration, not previously authorized, \$120,700. Agreed? Thank you. Total department not previously authorized, \$132,700. Agreed? Thank you.

Department of Justice, operations and maintenance, directorate, not previously authorized, \$104,000. Agreed? Thank you. Community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, \$50,000. Agreed? Thank you. Lawyer support service, not previously authorized, \$62,000. Agreed? Thank you. Registries and Court Services, not previously authorized, \$22,000. Agreed? Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$238,000. Agreed? Thank you.

Moving on to Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, operations and maintenance. Northwest Territories Housing Corporation not previously authorized, \$32,000. Agreed? Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$32,000. Agreed? Thank you.

Department of Education, Culture and Employment, operations and maintenance. Directorate and Administration, not previously authorized, \$146,000. Agreed? Thank you. Culture and Careers, not previously authorized, \$525,000. Agreed? Thank you. Educational development, not previously authorized, \$33,000. Agreed? Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$704,000. Agreed? Thank you.

Department of Transportation, operations and maintenance, corporate services, not previously authorized, \$85,300. Agreed? Thank you. Airports, not previously authorized, \$400,000. Agreed? Thank you. Highways, not previously authorized, \$38,000. Agreed? Total department, not previously authorized, \$523,300. Agreed? Thank you.

Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, operations and maintenance, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$99,200. Agreed? Thank you. Environmental protection, not previously authorized, negative \$15,000. Agreed? Thank you. Resource Management and Economic Development, not previously authorized, \$2,560,634. Agreed? Thank you. Forest Management, not previously authorized, \$46,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$2,690,834. Agreed? Thank you.

Department, Legislative Assembly, capital, Office of the Clerk, special warrants, \$100,000. Agreed? Thank you. Total department, special warrants, \$100,000. Agreed? Thank you.

Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, capital, community operations, special warrants, \$3,562,000. Agreed? Thank you. Community operations, not previously authorized, negative \$65,000. Agreed? Thank you. Total departments, special warrants, \$3,562,000. Agreed? Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$65,000. Agreed? Thank you.

Department of Public Works and Services, capital, asset management, special warrants, \$258,000. Agreed? Thank you. Not previously authorized, negative \$258,000. Agreed? Thank you. Petroleum products, special warrants, \$342,000. Agreed? Thank you. Not previously authorized, negative \$342,000. Total departments, special warrants, \$600,000. Agreed? Thank you. Not previously authorized, negative \$600,000. Agreed? Thank you.

Department of Health and Social Services, capital, community programs and services, special warrants, \$4,187,000. Agreed? Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$203,000. Agreed? Thank you. Total department, special warrants, \$4,187,000. Agreed? Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$203,000. Agreed? Thank you.

Department of Justice, capital, community justice and corrections, special warrants, \$662,000. Agreed? Thank you. Total department, special warrants, \$662,000. Agreed? Thank you.

Department of Education, Culture and Employment, capital, culture and careers, special warrants, \$600,000. Agreed? Thank you. Educational development, not previously authorized, \$851,000. Agreed? Thank you.

Total department, special warrants, \$600,000. Agreed? Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$851,000. Agreed? Thank you.

Department of Transportation, capital, airports, special warrants, \$200,000. Agreed? Thank you. Ferries, special warrants, \$240,000. Agreed? Total department, special warrants, \$440,000. Agreed? Thank you.

Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, capital, corporate management, special, not

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previously authorized. I mean, this is corporate management, not previously authorized \$147,000. Agreed? Thank you. Resource Management and Economic Development, special warrants, \$50,000. Agreed? Thank you. Not previously authorized, negative \$46,000. Agreed? Thank you. Total department, special warrants, \$50,000. Agreed? Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$101,000. Agreed? Thank you.

Could you please return to the beginning of tab 25, to Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2 1997-98. Clause by clause? Clause 1? Agreed? Thank you. Clause 2? Agreed? Thank you. Clause 3? Agreed? Thank you. Clause 4? Agreed? Thank you. Clause 5. Agreed? Thank you. Clause 6. Agreed? Thank you. Clause 7. Agreed? Thank you.

Part 1, vote 1, operations and maintenance, schedule. Part 1, vote 1, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, \$5,493,513. Agreed? Thank you.

Part 2, vote 2, capital. Total capital, \$10,691,000. Agreed? Thank you.

Total supplementary appropriations in parts 1 and 2, \$16,184,513. Agreed? Thank you.

Bill as a whole. Agreed? Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 25 is ready for third reading? Agreed? Thank you. Bill 25, is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Mr. Todd. Thank you, Mr. Voytilla.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. I would like to direct the committee Members' attention to Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act. Tab 20 in your green binder. Would the Minister like to introduce the bill? Madame Thompson?

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak to the Committee about the Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act. This bill would provide a more streamlined process for collecting outstanding property taxes. The NWT Association of Municipalities has requested these amendments because of the current process which requires taxing authorities to go to court, is often long, complicated and expensive. In some cases, the legal costs are so high that it is not worth it for them to use this process at all, so the taxes remain uncollected for several years.

With these amendments, tax authorities would be able to recover the cost of collecting tax arrears from the property owner. By following procedures set out in this bill, they would also be able to sell land and building for taxes, without going through the courts. These amendments would not allow Municipal taxing authorities or the Department of Finance to sell Indian Affairs Branch, or band land or any land that is exempt from taxation or cannot be sold under a land claims agreement.

Madam Chair, people who do not pay their property taxes are already liable to lose their property through a court order. These amendments would create a different process for recovering taxes. They would not change the end result. Other Canadian jurisdictions already have similar provisions. Today's climate of fiscal restraint makes it especially important to have an effective and efficient way to collect outstanding property taxes.

Municipal taxing authorities in the Northwest Territories should have access to the same remedies as their counter parts, elsewhere in Canada. The NWT Association of Municipalities supports this bill and are anxious to see it passed. The Municipalities and I recognize that individual property rights need to be protected, however, property rights have to be balanced with the responsibility to pay taxes. This is to protect the interests of the community as a whole and of individuals who do pay their taxes.

Madam Chair, this bill includes a number of safeguards to ensure people have several

opportunities to pay their taxes before their property is sold. It also includes protection for third parties with registered interest in land, who would be affected by a tax sale. Madam Chair, I am satisfied the new tax bill procedures in this bill will treat everyone fairly. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Would the chairman of the Infrastructure Committee like to present the committees' remarks on the bill?

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Bill 20 proposes to amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act to accommodate changes to a tax arrears, collection process. The amendments set out the procedural steps that a taxing authority must take before and after the sale of a taxable property when collecting an unpaid property tax.

At the 1996 annual general meeting, the Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities requested that MACA review the current legislation to allow for a more streamlined process for the collection of tax arrears. During the committee's deliberations on Bill 20, there were a couple of concerns which the committee raised with the Minister.

These concerns were: no requirement to get the best price for property. The standing committee was advised that such a requirement would be impossible for municipalities to comply with, and would make them vulnerable to law suits. The example given was when someone whose property was sold in the fall, might say, the municipality should have sold it in the spring when property values were higher. Also, municipalities in the general taxation area are liable for tax arrears for lands they own. Paragraph 73(2)(f) of the Property Assessment and Taxation Act, exempts municipalities from taxation. Section 19 of the Property Assessment and Taxation Act states that people who occupy property that belongs to the municipality are treated as the assessed owners of the property and do not have to pay property taxes to the Department of Finance. Madam Chair, the committee is satisfied that the bill provides for a more streamlined process for collecting outstanding property taxes and supports the bill's passage through the House. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Would the Minister like to bring in witnesses for the consideration of this bill?

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, I will.

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CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Is the committee agreed? Thank you. Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, Minister Thompson, could you please introduce your witnesses?

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chair. To my left is my deputy minister, Penny Ballantyne; to my right is Collette Langlois, my policy advisor for MACA and Shawn Flynn, legislative counsel. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Welcome to the committee. General comments on the bill? Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is in relation to lands and communities which are classified as federal lands or IAB lands in regard to the Indian Affairs Branch which are lands reserved for Indians or reserves. In regard to the jurisdiction of those lands which fall within federal jurisdiction, a lot of aboriginal people at this time have built houses on those lands with the understanding as treaty Indians they were exempt from property tax. My question to the Minister is, will this continue on and be the case or will this Act affect in any way those rights that the aboriginal people currently have had or have in their claims agreements? And, if so, what consultation process has taken place with the aboriginal organizations and the Department of Indian Affairs on this particular issue? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chair. The answer is no. These amendments would not allow municipal taxing authorities or the Department of Finance to sell Indian Affairs Branch or band lands or any land that is

exempt from taxation or cannot be sold under a land claims agreement. This is not for the band lands or the people that are dealing with land claims agreements. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

The other question is in regard to the taxation subsidy we allow for elders over 60. Will that continue under this arrangement that they will be exempt from property taxes in the smaller communities?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chair. These amendments have nothing to do with property tax. These amendments are for tax sales only. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Madam Chair, could you have the Minister repeat her answer because I could not hear? There was a little discussion going on my left. I wonder if she could repeat her answer?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Minister Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chair. This does not effect the seniors' subsidy at all. The bill is to amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act to allow a taxing authority without a court order to sell a taxable property that includes a parcel of land or a leasehold interest in municipal land for the purpose of recovering the arrears of property taxes on the property. This has nothing to do with the senior subsidy on their property tax. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Krutko. General comments on the bill? Clause by clause? Committee agreed, we will proceed. An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act. Clause 1. Agreed? Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed? Thank you. Clause 3. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

In regard to the whole area of taxation, who are the groups that were consulted on this? What was the process used to consult people on taxation?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chair. It is the same working group we have for the legislation review on financing. This was the resolution requested by the NWTAM, which is representative of all the mayors across the territories. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Minister Thompson. On the clause by clause, I would ask the Members of the committee if they could keep their questions to the specific clause we are dealing with. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

I thought there were more questions, that is why I held off on my question. I did not think we were going to railroad this through the House like we usually do.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

We can return to general comments, if the committee is agreed. If that is the request of the Member. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

I would like to go back to general comments because, the question that I asked and the concerns that are raised by communities, especially from the aboriginal community, where the whole question about treaty rights has not been defined and is still an outstanding issue. Not only in claims, but between the federal government and this government. I believe this Act will affect the rights aboriginal people feel they have through treaties, especially in regard to taxation, which is a federal jurisdiction.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I will ask the Minister if she could help to explain, deputy minister Penny Ballantyne. Ms. Ballantyne.

MS. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, these amendments will not impose any new taxation regime on anybody in the Northwest Territories. It simply amends the process that is currently in place that allows tax based municipalities to recover unpaid property taxes through the courts. This gives the municipalities another alternative process that still keeps the court as a last resort, but allows them to recover those property taxes through a much simpler process that can be controlled by the municipality in a much

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shorter timeframe. There is no impact on aboriginal rights with respect to taxation as a result of the amendments that are before the House today. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

If that explanation does not help to clarify the intent of the bill, I would ask then, if the committee is agreed that we return to general comments? Is the committee agreed? Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I think the Member has a right to an answered question, but I am sure his questions can be answered in each part of the bill, as we go. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

We will return to general comments and any questions the Member has we will take at this time. We will commence the clause by clause consideration after we have concluded general comments. Any further general comments? Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I think it is time to give a little history lesson on how a lot of these communities have been developed, especially in the Mackenzie Valley where treaties are in place. A lot of aboriginal communities have lost their land and their homes to

government decisions that are made by someone else. They were told that we will give you a home; you will not have to pay rent; and then at the end of the day, after they move into these facilities, they find out that the property that was traditionally a family home and the land under it which was federal lands which they had thought they had the right to hand down to their next generation, and their generation after that, which may have been in that family for 10 generations after 1921 when the treaties were signed.

They put trust in government to take care of them. For people here, who take the whole idea that economics, commerce and taxation is a way of life, for some people it was imposed on them. I think you have to look in a lot of communities, especially the aboriginal communities where taxation is a foreign thing. A lot of people have lost property because of things they took for granted as someone was there to take care of them. It was either the Department of Indian Affairs, because they were classified as treaty Indians or basically that you had an agent who was there to take care of interests at home as administrators.

If you go to a lot of these communities today, a lot of land that was once traditionally known as property for a particular family, the Charlie Family, the Vitrikoff Family; if you look at the old maps of how these communities were built; they were all traditionally lots of land which were put aside as Indian land for Indian people. But today those properties are no longer Indian land for people, because either the agent gave it to someone for business purposes or it was lost because of the transaction of an individual moving out of the home that they traditionally owned into what we call now the Housing Corporation which gives social housing to aboriginal people so they can live. By making that decision, there was a misunderstanding that we will give you this place, it will be better than the house you live in, you did not have to pay any rent, and now a lot of people are getting evicted because they do not pay their rent. They had a home in the first place. They do not have that any more. A lot of people today get tax assessments in the mail. Especially a lot of the elders, get them five or six times in the mail, and they are wondering if the police are going to come knocking on their door because they do not know how they come to owe this much money.

If you look in the assessment, it says \$85,000. For them it is a lot of money. They do not understand why they have to pay that. So they come to an MLA or a band council and say, look, I got this in the mail. I got a bill. They do not understand the process. But I think

the whole idea of taxation, especially in regard to that, there is a battle now on between the whole question about the federal responsibility in the north, especially where land was put aside for use in communities which have been sold to the private sector for other purposes in which the band no longer has the opportunity to go through the negotiation process of claims.

Also, there is an obligation under the treaties to establish reserves. But if the land is not there in the communities for the aboriginal people to establish, what other lands are going to be available to them?

I think from my view, this is an issue that has to be looked at because it is based on the fundamental rights, which are handed down under treaties and also protected under section 35, the Canadian Constitution.

Also, the exemption that aboriginal people have to taxation such as property taxes on lands in communities where those lands still exist. There has to be more of an effort made to look at the whole area, any taxes or any means of taxes on aboriginal people who have rights which are protected under the Constitution, and also under the obligations the federal government has.

I believe a lot of aboriginal people who thought they were protected when they built houses on federal lands and now receive assessment notices, and a bill for taxes, are wondering what happened? I think this has to be cleared up.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I just want to remind the Members that this bill, specifically relates to Municipal Taxing Authorities, tax based municipalities. Some of the comments Mr. Krutko is making may refer to incidents which took place in tax-based municipalities at some point in time. I would like to remind Members that the intent of the bill is towards taxed based municipalities. Minister Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chair. The Member is raising some good issues, but what he is raising has nothing to do with the bill before the Committee. MACA does not set or collect taxes in general taxation areas.

These provisions do not apply to anyone who is on the IAB land or federal land. What we are trying to do is that this bill would provide a more streamlined

process for collecting outstanding property taxes. The NWT Association of Municipalities has requested these amendments because the current process which requires taxing authorities to go to court, is often long, complicated and expensive. In some cases the legal costs are so high, it is not worth it for them to use this process at all.

We are just trying to streamline the process for collecting outstanding property taxes. As I said before, these

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amendments would not allow municipal taxing authorities or the Department of Finance to sell Indian Affairs Branch or band lands or any land that is exempt from taxation or cannot be sold under a land claims agreement. This is just to streamline the process. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Further general comments? General comments. Clause by clause?

Clause 1. Agreed? Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed? Thank you. Clause 3. Agreed? Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed? Thank you. Page 23, clause 5. Agreed? Thank you. Clause 6. Agreed? Thank you. Clause 7. Agreed? Thank you.

Bill as a whole. Agreed? Thank you. Does the Committee agree that Bill 20 is ready for Third Reading? Agreed? Thank you. Bill 20 is now ready for Third Reading. Thank you, Madam Minister. Thank you, witnesses. That concludes Bill 20 and 25 in committee of the whole. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Madam Chair, I move we report progress.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. We do not have a quorum so I will have to ring the bell.

We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is in order. It is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? Those opposed? Motion is carried. I will rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1997-98 and Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act and would like to report that Bills 25 and 20 are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 3: Family Law Act

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik that Bill 3, Family Law Act be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 3 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Arlooktoo.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All

those opposed? Motion is carried. Bill 15 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 21: An Act to Amend the Companies Act

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu that Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Companies Act be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 21 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 22: An Act to Amend the Corrections Act

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South that Bill 22, An Act to Amend the Correction Act be read for a third time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Bill 22 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations immediately after adjournment. Meetings for tomorrow morning, again at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, at 11:00 a.m. of the Ordinary Members' Caucus and at 12:00 noon Caucus luncheon.

Orders of the day for Thursday, October 16th:

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

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 16th at 1:30 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT

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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
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 5, Adoption Act
 - Tabled Document 108-13(4), Creation of Two New Territories - Transition Action Plan
 - Tabled Document 110-13(4), Action Plan for Transition to a New Western Territory
 - Tabled Document 113-13(4), Government of the NWT Interim Report, for the Year-ended March 31, 1997.
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act
 - Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1997-1998.
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: