



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
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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. Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Honourable Manitok Thompson, Honourable John Todd.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Good afternoon. I would like to recognize in the gallery today, the Honourable Lawrence MacAuley, the federal Minister of Labour. I would also like to welcome the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, the Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic and the Secretary of State for Youth. Welcome to the Assembly. I would also like to inform the House that I have received the following message from Her Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

Dear Mr. Speaker: I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the passage on Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1997-98 during the Fourth Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly. Yours truly, Helen Maksagak, Commissioner

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

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 122-13(4): Wildlife Business Regulations

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am please to inform the Assembly that following extensive consultation with interested parties in the Northwest Territories, I have recently signed off a regulatory amendment package that would substantially change the Wildlife Business

Regulations. These regulations which are enacted under the NWT Wildlife Act, administer the licensing of all wildlife related businesses including big game outfitters, fur dealers, tanners, game farms and fur farms. Until recently, the regulations called for ten different licences, each with its own application form, requirements and fee schedule.

This government made a commitment to streamline processes and eliminate unnecessary regulations. I am pleased to advise that we have addressed this issue by simplifying many aspects of the Wildlife Business Regulations. Several types of licences have been amalgamated into one, while application forms and basic criteria for all businesses have been standardized. Part of this standardization includes adjustments to the licence fee schedule. Licences which previously cost \$25 to \$50 annually will now cost \$100 on first application and \$50 thereafter. Considering this is the first fee increase in 20 years, I believe the increase is justified and a small price to pay to access a significant natural resource.

In order for businesses to operate on a sound footing, we have also extended the evergreen clause to include all outfitting businesses in the Northwest Territories. The evergreen clause entitles licence holders to an annual licence for ten years from the date of issue. This provides outfitting businesses with a secure base on which to develop long range marketing plans and relations with suppliers and financial institutions.

While this government has made a commitment to reducing paperwork, we have not forgotten our responsibility for the protection and maintenance of our natural resources, in particular our wildlife. As of October 1, the date these new regulations come into force, courts in the Northwest Territories are able to assess fines of up to \$500,000 for infractions under the Wildlife Business Regulations. This is a far cry from the previous limits under the Act of a maximum of \$1,000 per offence.

The people of the Northwest Territories have entrusted this government to ensure proper management of our natural resources. I believe these actions clearly demonstrate this government's commitment to the people.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the recent amendments to the Wildlife Business Regulations are one more step towards creating a business climate which is free from unnecessary government regulation. It emphasizes our ongoing commitment to protection of the north's

natural resources, while supporting northern business.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 123-13(4): Municipal Legislation Review

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker last May I tabled a document titled, Empowerment Through Community Legislation, a discussion paper on proposed changes to community government legislation. This document was the basis for our consultations on phase 2 of the Municipal Legislation Review.

I am pleased to report to the Members of this Assembly that the consultation that took place over the summer was a success. We have generated a great deal of discussion,

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interest and support among our community leaders. Communities have told us what kind of legislation they need to be more effective and more empowered. In the near future, I will be proposing to Cabinet that a new community act be drafted and introduced in this Assembly.

The new act will be a cornerstone of community empowerment. It will take away the barriers that frustrate communities when they try to find local solutions to local problems. The act will get rid of unnecessary controls and restrictions. Community governments will be better able to focus on their accountability to their residents.

Mr. Speaker, a consensus has emerged from our community consultations that we need a new community government act in time for 1999. Communities have a critical role to play in the creation of two new territories. Flexible and modern legislation will give them the tools they need to be even more effective community governments.

Mr. Speaker, with the Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities and the support of the Members of this House, we have already succeeded in making important changes to municipal legislation this year. I would like to thank the Members and the

communities and ask for their continued support in this important initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 124-13(4): Transition Action Plan

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the concern raised by a number of Members in this Assembly. Several honourable Members were concerned that a news report yesterday on CBC radio cast doubts on the federal government's commitment to discuss costs related to division identified in its Transition Action Plan that I tabled last week.

Mr. Speaker, based on these concerns I asked my officials to contact the office of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Honourable Jane Stewart, to clarify the commitment that was made last week. I am pleased to advise that Ms. Stewart has confirmed her commitment to a table to allow all parties to assess the transition costs identified by this government. In fact, a preliminary meeting of all parties to discuss this issue and to review the Transition Action Plan has already taken place.

Mr. Speaker, while I am pleased that these discussions are going ahead, it is important to clarify the issues raised by the report on CBC yesterday. The Transition Action Plan was prepared by this government in a spirit of cooperation and partnership and in an attempt to further the division process in both the west and the Nunavut. It is not, as reported yesterday on the CBC, a request for additional funding. The plan is an alert to all parties that we believe that there are significant transition costs associated with creating two territories.

It is our view that the plan identifies a number of fundamental issues with respect to costing and implementation that have not been discussed previously and, as such, is a good starting point for all parties to assess these issues. We are looking forward to our discussion with the federal government and other parties on these issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 125-13(4): Severe Weather Conditions - Baffin and Keewatin Regions

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, the southern areas of the Baffin and Keewatin regions continue to be experiencing severe weather conditions, with freezing rains and winds up to 120 kilometres per hour as an Arctic hurricane moves through the regions. This is a very severe condition which seems to occur on a ten-year cycle. The effect of the storm has been felt in communities as far north as Hall Beach and to Sanikiluaq in the south. The communities of Cape Dorset and Rankin Inlet have been experiencing such severe conditions that a state of local emergency was declared for a 24-hour period for the safety of the public. We are still receiving reports on other communities but information is a bit slow.

The community of Arviat has a number of houses without power. The community is alternating generators between the homes to keep them from freezing up. Most of the people on the land have been accounted for in the Keewatin region. Local radios, CBs and HF radios are keeping citizens from a number of communities informed of weather, closures and emergency numbers. Although not a complete listing, the preliminary damage caused by the storm includes: Cape Dorset, 5 boats damaged; Hall Beach, 6 power poles between the community and the airport have been blown down; Kimmirut, damage to three boats; Whale Cove, 12 power poles down, resulting in 14 houses without power; Rankin Inlet, damage to two trailers and two mobile homes which were blown over and the roof of the Northern Store was lifted by winds gusting to 135 kilometres per hour.

The estimates of damage excluding large businesses is close to \$50,000. The Emergency Measures Organization has now made contact with Rankin Inlet via the recently installed satellite telephone MSAT units and is now receiving regular updates. The community of Rankin Inlet has lost long-distance telephone communication since late Tuesday afternoon. Contact with Hall Beach continues to be by radio out of Winnipeg. In both regions, the regional emergency response plans are in effect and the volunteer committees are monitoring community situations as the storm progresses. The full extent of the damage is not yet known.

The role of the Emergency Measures Organization throughout this process is as advisor to the regions, if and when required to the communities themselves. All effected communities have emergency response plans which give guidelines for the community's response to emergency incidents such as what is occurring presently. Community representatives have been trained in emergency response, especially those involving a stand-alone response where outside resources cannot be

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delivered to the effected community due to extreme weather conditions.

The Arctic hurricane is predicted to move out of the region over the next day, but only time will tell. The Emergency Measures Organization, through its regional contacts, will continue to monitor the situation. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the efforts and hard work of all community emergency teams in the Keewatin and Baffin as well as the Emergency Measures Organization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 126-13(4): Official Languages Policy and Guidelines

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to advise that later today I will be tabling the Official Languages Policy and Guidelines. These policies and guidelines, which were developed in close consultation with community groups, outline the standards for the provision of government services in official languages. These documents are important, as they define the basic requirements when offering official language services. These documents again illustrate this government's commitment to the official languages of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Developing these documents was not an easy task. A number of factors had to be kept in mind such as the number of official languages, the number of speakers and their geographic distribution. Because of the complexity of this task, it was necessary to undertake extensive consultation with community groups and with government departments. The end product

reflects the reality of the north, but also addresses language needs in an efficient and effective manner.

The tabling of this document does not complete this task. The next step is the development of implementation plans. This will include monitoring mechanisms, evaluation criteria and reassessment of approaches. The policy is issued under the authority of the Executive Council and I, as the Premier, am accountable for its implementation. Ministers are responsible for the delivery of programs and services in accordance with the policy and guidelines, and I will ensure compliance with the policy and guidelines.

Having both of these documents in place, Mr. Speaker, will enable the Government of the Northwest Territories to more efficiently and effectively offer services in the official languages of the Northwest Territories. This is an essential part of supporting our languages and respecting all citizens of the Northwest Territories by providing language services. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the individuals who worked so hard on the development of the policy and the guidelines. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 127-13(4): A Report on Progress of ECE's Strategic Plan

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, later today I will table a report on progress the Department of Education, Culture and Employment has made toward achieving the goals set out in its strategic plan. Four years ago, the department set out to work more closely with communities to help them develop quality, community-based Education, Culture and Employment programs throughout the Northwest Territories. The first step was to consult with a broad cross-section of stakeholders, including community district education authorities, community governments, Arctic College as it was known at the time, and aboriginal organizations.

The information gathered during the consultation was used to develop the plan called People: Our Focus for the Future, A Strategy to 2010. The strategy describes the vision we developed with our various partners as well as a plan for achieving that vision.

That vision is built on seven strategic points: to improve support to communities to achieve their culture, heritage and language goals; to provide people in all communities with access to public information networks; to build a comprehensive early childhood learning system; to improve student achievement; to improve access for adults to learning and work; to develop a flexible, comprehensive Northwest Territories system of post-secondary learning; and to ensure a lasting impact from learning and human resource development.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform this Assembly that the department and our partners have already made significant progress towards these goals. But the report also shows that there is still much work to be done. When the Strategic Plan was being developed, we recognized that the world would be a different place by the year 2010. The creation of two territories, self-government and community empowerment have the potential to change many of the current programs. The evolution of information technology will also continue to change how we do our work. The strategy was therefore designed to be flexible enough to accommodate the changes northerners will face, yet enable us to achieve the goals we set ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, the key to reaching these goals will be the continued cooperation of all stakeholders as we work to help northerners develop the skills and knowledge they will need to meet the challenges of the next century. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 128-13(4): WCB 1996 Annual Report

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 34(6) so that all Ministers' statements filed with the Clerk can be delivered today.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Keewatin Central is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 34(6). Do we have any nays?

There are no nays. Mr. Todd, you have unanimous consent.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you colleagues. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the Financial Administration Act, the Northwest Territories Workers' Compensation Board is required to submit to this Assembly, an annual report of its activities. I am pleased to table this document for the period January 1 to December 31, 1996 today. This report is an accounting of the board's financial affairs including audited financial statements and an actuarial opinion regarding the adequacy of its liability reserves. It is not often I am stuck for words Mr. Speaker. Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, this document reports on the programs and activities undertaken by the board in the interest of its stakeholders.

In 1996, assessment revenue from the Northwest Territories' employers totalled \$23 million while the board's investment income totalled almost \$15 million. Meanwhile, the Workers' Compensation Board paid or set aside \$26.6 million in benefits to injured workers. Over and above its liabilities, Mr. Speaker, the board has nearly \$28 million and in its operating catastrophe reserves, an increase of over \$9 million in 1995.

In response to this strong financial position, the average employer assessment rate was reduced by 10 percent in 1996 and, in July, this year's maximum insurable remuneration (YMIR) was increased for benefit purposes to \$49,000.

Mr. Speaker, fully funded status is the general measure of an effective compensation system. It means that the Workers' Compensation Board has adequate assets to meet all the present and future commitments to injured workers by maintaining this balance. The Workers' Compensation Board can ensure that assessment rates continue at their lowest and most cost-effective level.

Last year our government entrusted the responsibility for Occupational Health and Safety to the Northwest Territories Workers' Compensation Board. In spite of the additional costs, the board not only maintained its fully funded position, Mr. Speaker, but improved it by five percent. More than ever before, the focus of the Workers' Compensation Board is now accident prevention. In 1996, the Workers' Compensation Board addressed this new mandate with a balanced approach to education and enforcement. Workers' Compensation Board safety advisors provided safety

training to over 1,000 workers and employers in 15 communities. An additional 375 individuals, many of them young workers, receive training made possible by the Workers' Compensation Board materials.

The Workers' Compensation Board Industrial Safety Unit made 55 community visits last year, completing 1,047 inspections. At the same time, the Workers' Compensation Board Mine Safety Unit conducted 100 mine inspections, an extensive mine safety audit and considerable maintenance testing and monitoring. The safety incentive and rate reduction program was implemented in 1996, 52 employers were targeted with additional assessments and safety training. Revenue collection from this program will support safety education activities in the future.

Mr. Speaker, while the accident prevention was and will continue to be a major focus of the Northwest Territories Workers' Compensation Board, it will not detract from the primary responsibility for compensating injured workers. In 1996, the Workers' Compensation Board began a concerted effort to improve and evaluate its existing compensation programs. A new program policy manual was developed along with operational procedures to support the manual. Ongoing training was provided to the staff and education programs were delivered to service providers, workers and employers. A performance review of the WCB service providers was completed, as was an evaluation of the WCB's early intervention program. A client satisfaction survey was distributed to hundreds of employers and claimants.

Mr. Speaker, while balancing its role as educator, regulator and compensator, the NWT Workers' Compensation Board, like other organizations, must prepare for division. Options are being researched for the delivery of compensation following division. A legislative review of the board's four acts was also undertaken to identify amendments that may be required as a result of division. I plan to introduce these amendments early next year. Mr. Speaker, the 1996 annual report of the Workers' Compensation Board contains a financial, statistical and philosophical overview of the work performed by the WCB last year. It confirms the WCB's accountability to me, as the Minister responsible to this Assembly, and it reaffirms its commitment to the workers and employers of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 129-13(4): Improvements to Keewatin Fuel Resupply

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to report to the House today on a positive approach we are taking to improve the flexibility and the economy of fuel resupply in the Keewatin region. I say we because this improvement is a direct result of the partnership between MLAs and Ministers working together on Keewatin resupply.

The infrastructure in several Keewatin communities was designed only for barge deliveries of the annual fuel resupply. This restricted our ability to look for the most cost-effective fuel and delivery. I am announcing today that Public Works and Services will be issuing a request for proposals in November for the private sector to construct fuel delivery pipelines in Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Arviat and Rankin Inlet. Consultation with the affected communities is still under way, so that we can decide on the right locations for the pipelines.

When the construction is completed, the government will lease back the pipelines for a five-year period, at which point they will be owned outright by the Nunavut government.

Mr. Speaker, there are great savings to be made from direct fuel tanker delivery rather than barges. We project savings of \$65 million to \$100 million over the 20-year useful life of the

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pipelines. These savings are more than enough to fund the lease costs of the new pipelines.

Following the issuing of the proposal call for fuel pipeline, Public Works and Services will be issuing another proposal call for petroleum products resupply for the entire eastern Arctic to replace the current contracts with NTCL, which expires at the end of the 1998 resupply season. As part of that request for proposals, companies will be asked to bid on the supply of dry cargo for the Keewatin region. By assuring this coordinated proposal call, Mr. Speaker, for both petroleum products and dry cargo, we will continue the current linkages between the two types of cargo to make resupply economical for all.

The residents of the Keewatin can look forward to some savings during the period when the new pipelines are being paid for. However, they will see a significant reduction in fuel prices after the five-year buy back period, and this should have a major impact on the Keewatin standard of living.

I think that all Members of the Assembly can be very proud of this achievement of the Keewatin Resupply Committee. It shows what we can do when we work together.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 130-13(4): Max Melnyk

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to say a few words about a long term northerner, a former senior manager with the GNWT and a community leader upon his retirement from public life. Mr. Speaker, I am speaking about Mayor Max Melnyk of the town of Norman Wells. Mr. Melnyk, born in Saskatchewan, joined the Navy and came to the north in the early 1960s. In 1962 he married Agnes Mercredi in Inuvik and started a family. I congratulate Max and Agnes for their many years of marriage.

Mr. Melnyk's position in the military took him to postings in the north and in the south. After leaving the Armed Forces, Mr. Melnyk returned to the north, where he has been an active community member both in Inuvik and Norman Wells. In recognition of his dedication to community service, in 1994, Mr. Melnyk was the recipient of the Northwest Territories Outstanding Volunteer Service Award. This is the highest honour the Department of the Municipal and Community Affairs can bestow on an individual.

Mr. Melnyk has been an active member of the Royal Canadian Legion and one of the founding members of the Inuvik branch. As a public servant, Mr. Melnyk held the senior GNWT position in Norman Wells as the area director for the Sahtu. As the mayor of Norman Wells, he has worked hard to improve the quality of life for the residents of his community. Over the years, Mayor Melnyk has worked closely with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs on all

the changes that have taken place within the GNWT and our relationship with community councils. Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Mayor Melnyk and wife Agnes all the best in their retirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Ministers' statements. (Translation) I have in the gallery several elders from Fort Providence who have come to see how their MLA works, where he works, and what he does. I have always felt that it is important to maintain contact between these wise people and myself. The elders have always told me and made sure I never forget, that to be a successful leader, you have to be a leader with the people, not a leader of the people. I have always tried to follow this advice and found it to be true. Now I am proud to introduce these elders and the others in their group. Thank you all for visiting. Thank you. (Translation ends) Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 491-13(4): Anniversary of the Election of the Thirteenth Assembly

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, October 16th is the anniversary of the election of the Members of the 13th Assembly. Two years ago today we anxiously waited as the results of the polls came in. The lucky 13th Assembly, as I often refer to us, has been consumed with the three D's, deficit, downsizing and division.

Twenty-four, for the most part, strangers to each other came together to undertake the task of governing with the leadership of a few more experienced Members that we elected as the Ministers to our Cabinet. After two years, I can categorically state, that there is little that could adequately prepare you for the barrage of personal and professional adjustments required to fit into this role. There is no shortcut to learning the rules, becoming comfortable with the setting, gaining confidence, and forming the relationships necessary to perform this job. Varying agendas and styles surface as the issues come and go. Some Members engage in the collegial goings on in the halls, offices and meeting rooms of the Legislature, while others spent time strengthening their connection to their constituents by phone, fax, e-mail and, in the case of Mr. Picco, even the Internet. It is truly a balancing act.

I have appreciated the advice and encouragement of some of the veterans who have been around for a while, while we grapple where to focus our energies. One such piece of advice came early on and I think of it often. During an adjustment phase, in the momentary spell of feeling sorry for myself and pining for my former life when I enjoyed a degree of comfort, respect and knowledge of what the heck I was doing, this rather unsympathetic, experienced colleague bluntly informed me, "the Government of the Northwest Territories is not about you".

You know, this is so true. The Government of the Northwest Territories is all about our constituents, the people of the Northwest Territories and specifically about the people who sent us here to represent them. When we forget that, we have lost it. How we effect the financial resources, programs,

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services and policies of this government in a way which most positively effects our communities and constituents, is exactly the benchmark of leadership.

Although some days I wish I had a magic wand to change things, to hurry things along, to make other Members see priorities from my perspective; as I said earlier, there are no shortcuts. We bring what we can to the discussion. Regardless of future elections or the challenges ahead, for the next two years; I will do my best to represent the interests of my constituents and the people of the Northwest Territories, and I will proudly extend my hand and say, my name is Jane Groenewegen and I am the MLA for Hay River. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 492-13(4): Breast Cancer

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very hard for me to express my concerns regarding the issue of cancer in the Northwest Territories. Just recently I lost my mother to breast cancer. The irony of her death is that she died upon the day that was declared by the city of Yellowknife to be Breast Cancer Awareness Day. The incidence rate of breast cancer in Canada is the second highest in the world. In 1996 it was estimated

that 18,500 new cases of breast cancer were diagnosed. Deaths from breast cancer in 1996 were estimated to be 5,300 people. In Canada, a woman dies of breast cancer every 90 minutes, 15 women die from breast cancer every day. If it is detected very early, the five-year survival rate can be more than 90 percent.

For the families and victims, the legacy of this disease will affect them for the rest of their lives. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the people who expressed their concerns and provided assistance to my mother and the family during her illness. For other families that are facing the loss of a loved one due to cancer, there is an information line available in all official languages. Callers can speak to specially trained medical translators and interpreters who will answer your questions. The number to call is 1-888-261-HOPE (4673). Information in English or French is available by phoning 1-888-939-3333.

Cancer is an unwelcome, but unique part of our lives. We can limit the number of victims through early detection and effective treatment. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Members. Yellowknife residents recently participated in the Run for a Cure. They raised funds for a mammogram machine for the Stanton Regional Hospital. The mammogram machine's cost are in excess of \$150,000 and will assist in the early detection of breast cancer. Seventy-five percent of the money raised by the Run goes towards the purchase of the new machine.

Mr. Speaker, with such an important diagnosing machine to diagnose cancer at an early stage, I will ask this government if they can assist in the fund-raising effort for this needed machine.

Mr. Speaker, within my region people are talking. We know how important oral tradition is in our society. What is being said is that too many of our people are dying of cancer. It seems that we have a higher than normal incidence of cancer, and it also seems that the

number of cases are increasing. Each year we learn of more people being diagnosed with cancer. We watch our friends, relatives and loved ones succumb to this horrible disease and we have to wonder.

We question why people in our communities are not being diagnosed early enough or properly. People are sent south for medical evaluation but return with no diagnosis. It is only when it is too late that we find they have cancer. Within our communities, there are barriers between medical professionals and the patients. In addition, outside the seven or eight largest communities, physician services are only available on a visiting basis and are not frequent. Low literacy and use of terms that cannot be translated let alone explained can be a problem when dealing with elders. Preventative health in the form of educating our people on the risks, causes, signs and symptoms of cancer is a new concept in a lot of our communities. The people in my region want to know what is happening. They want to know if the government is aware of their concerns. They want to know if the rate of cancer is increasing and if it is, what is the cause of it?

It is the unknown facts on cancer that people fear the most. As a government, we have to address these unknowns and find the information for our residents. The information must be found so that we can find a cure for cancer. There has to be more information or time spent on detecting this crucial disease early. We must face this unknown so that families and the friends, who have lost loved ones, and the ones left behind, are not left wondering why. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 493-13(4): Concerns with Digital Network Development

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week in this House the issue of the digital network and the contract at Ardicom came up for discussion and some scrutiny. Early this week, a meeting was held via teleconferencing with a number of local Internet providers as well as the Government of the Northwest

Territories. Out of that meeting came some concerns that I would like to share with this House.

Last Tuesday afternoon, in a long overdue meeting, the planned digital network for the Northwest Territories was

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discussed. Included were the Government of the Northwest Territories, Ardicom and NorthwTel representatives as well as a number of private enterprise Internet service providers from Yellowknife and many other Northwest Territories' communities connected by a conference call.

From the outset, the private sector participants were united in their condemnation of the approach by the Government of the Northwest Territories' offices in all communities and the Government of the Northwest Territories in setting up its own proprietary computer network. They were critical of the plan to link all government offices in the communities in an approach which excludes the use of local computer businesses and Internet providers in its installation and long-term operation. In addition, many probing and critical questions were asked about the government's commitment to Ardicom to create the digital and communication infrastructure intended to carry us into the 21st century.

Two main points came out of the meeting. Firstly, by not using private enterprises' solutions offered in the larger communities in the Northwest Territories by Internet service providers and computer firms, the government is making a very large error. The government's planned use or rather lack of use of local Internet service providers and computer firms in the larger Northwest Territories' communities for a future government network is ill conceived and unwise. Furthermore, it goes against everything our government has stood for in its efforts to foster job creation and develop a home grown northern industry. Secondly, many people are questioning the choice of Ardicom to install a digital network across Northwest Territories and perhaps more important, there is a great deal of doubt regarding the grand vision of the digital network as it is currently conceived. Perhaps we need a smaller, meaner, more flexible system that can grow and evolve to accommodate this rapidly growing technological area. Our government, by guaranteeing to be the corner stone client for Ardicom something it will not do with small local Internet service providers, is making a long-term commitment to use this and only this company as its source for

growth and development in this vital area. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Ardicom initiative has faltered even prior to start-up. Little information is available to show how it will fulfil its plans and whether or not it can make the grand vision of a digital network a reality. Further, many doubt Ardicom can honour all its claims and stay within the promised price. It is time this plan was analyzed and reassessed before it is too late and we find we have become locked into an expensive dinosaur which relegates the Northwest Territories to a technological backwater in the coming decade. It is time for Ardicom to provide an implementation plan supported in detail by technical data as well as a cost project analysis. With that finally on the table, a serious public analysis involving all players and stakeholders should take place to determine if Ardicom's offering is the right way to go or if indeed we should take a step back and rethink this process before it is too late. Mr. Speaker, later today, I will be tabling this document in the House. As well, I will be questioning the Minister and requesting his assistance to pursue this matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 494-13(4): GNWT Contracting Policies

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past several months I have continued to ask this government about accountability, transparency, responsibility, and I have asked for more openness in the way we do business. The motion of last May asked for the publishing of the contracts issued by this government and to list them as negotiated, sole-source or tender. Mr. Speaker, the government has finally begun to do this. They have also provided the disks so that the information can be downloaded. Mr.

Speaker, I would like to congratulate the government for this initiative.

--Applause

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 495-13(4): Dogs and People in the North

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MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to the relationship between dogs and the humans in the north. In most northern communities, dogs are not allowed to run loose. However, those dogs that are allowed to run free pose no threat to members of the community. There is a very clear relationship between the dogs and the people. If a dog breaks this relationship, this trust and attacks a human, it is destroyed. No questions asked. The circumstances behind the attacks are of no account. The fact that a dog attacks a human means it must be destroyed.

A few years ago, in Arctic Red River a dog team attacked a passerby. Sadly, the whole team was destroyed because of this act. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, this eliminated the chance of this ever happening again. It is sad but, most aboriginal people know that any dog that violates a human is destroyed without question.

Mr. Speaker, that leads me to a recent case of four-year old Jordan Drybone, who was mauled by a dog this September. To-date, nothing has been done about this dog, despite calls from Jordan's mother, that the dog should be destroyed. Mr. Speaker, by-law advisory constable, Larry Weber, says nothing is being done about the dog. I find it very disturbing that Mr. Weber feels that it is the fault of the boy, that the mauling was brought on because the dog was provoked or teased. I am very concerned about the situation, Mr. Speaker. The dog is shut up behind a fence and tied up. It has very little contact with humans other than its owner. By being confined in a fenced in yard, I doubt the dog would have reacted any other way to strangers.

Mr. Speaker, if anything, the dog is provoked by being confined to a small area. It is unacceptable that nothing has been done because of this matter. It is clear the relationship between humans and a dog has been broken. It hurts me deeply that this boy will have to suffer humiliation and scars of this attack the rest of his life, perhaps never to marry, being reluctant to mingle, be discriminated against. Our policy in this House is zero tolerance towards violence. Why is it, Mr. Speaker, that this animal's welfare is being put above the human being? If any human had been acted in this manner even if provoked, this person would pay a price. Would it be different just because a tyke provoked a dog? The public and our children's safety depends on our acting to protect them and correct the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 496-13(4): Aboriginal Joint Venture in Diamond Sorting

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about an aboriginal joint venture. Mr. Speaker, in the last couple of weeks I have heard lots about diamonds and I have listened with interest. You will recall that last year, I asked several questions about a diamond sorting and valuation facility and made statements that sorting and valuation should be done in Yellowknife. I am glad to see that all the Members agree that it is a worthwhile cause. Since last year, I have taken upon myself to learn more about diamond sorting and valuation. I have talked to people, I read up on it, and recently, I took a trip to Antwerp from London with other MLAs. I saw first hand that you do not need a degree or even a high school diploma to work in a diamond industry. On the contrary, it seemed as though most sorters, polishers, cutters that we saw had poor education. Mr. Speaker, we have artists of all sorts in the North. They sew with beads, silk, and moosehair. We have carvers. We have international acclaimed painters. It is easy to see that people up in the north could do sorting, policing or even cutting with enough training. Since coming back from Antwerp, I have participated in putting together a joint venture, an aboriginal joint venture between the aboriginal birthright groups in the diamond area. I say the birthright groups because

they are the people of aboriginal title and other rights in the diamond area, and that is why the federal government insisted that BHP negotiate impact benefit agreements with them.

The joint venture consists of the Dogrib Nation, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and the Kitikmeot Inuit. The aboriginal joint venture recently sent a letter to the DIAND Minister and the Government of the Northwest Territories, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. The joint venture has offered to provide a Yellowknife-based facility and services for diamond sorting and valuation to the governments and industry. They indicated this is to maximize economic opportunities for their shareholders and other residents of the Northwest Territories that diamond mining regulations should require the sorting and valuation of Northwest Territories' diamonds at a Northwest Territories community site. They have offered to construct a facility or facilities in Yellowknife that meets both government and industry layout and operational requirements. They would bring in additional expertise that would enable it to supply a range of quality technical services to governments and industry.

Mr. Speaker, the aboriginal joint venture's goal is to create infrastructure so the Northwest Territories diamonds can be processed in the Northwest Territories with a maximum of benefits for shareholders and other residents. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I helped put this aboriginal joint venture together is because I felt it could be a strong argument for the federal government to ensure the sorting and valuation is done in a Northwest Territories' community. The venture has the support of the city of Yellowknife and several prominent Yellowknife business people. I am happy to report, that today, they have put in an application for land at the Yellowknife airport for a sorting facility. Why the Yellowknife airport? Because it has less security risks, as the diamonds will not

even have to leave the airport to be sorted and valued. Mr. Speaker, I am sure all

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Members here join me, in wishing the aboriginal joint venture every success. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 497-13(4): Air Traffic Safety in Clyde River

MR. ENUARAQ:

Today I would like to talk about a matter of grave concern and safety to the residents of my home community, Clyde River. As the Members are no doubt aware, Clyde River relies solely on air transportation as its link to the outside world. The government has money budgeted in the near future to build a taxiway and apron in front of the new terminal building they also plan to build.

Mr. Speaker, this new construction certainly solves the community's previous problem of having to cross the runway to get to the terminal building, an important safety issue in itself. However, Mr. Speaker, it does not address the real problem at the airport in Clyde River, which is the prevailing winds in the area always resulting in the pilots having to land on a cross wind. You can ask any pilot and find out that this is not a good situation. It makes it hard for pilots to land the plane safely.

I am worried, Mr. Speaker, that it would take an accident to have this problems corrected. I strongly urge the Minister of Transportation to look into this important safety issue for my constituents and plan a course of action to address the problem. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 498-13(4): Regionalization of Health Care

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I spoke about the Health and Social Services Draft Strategic Plan and the concerns of the Northwest Territories Medical Association had with that report. Today, I would like to make some further comments the Medical Association had about this voluminous final report issued by Med-Emerg International.

For example, the report suggests moving further into regionalized health care. There are no doubts, many benefits and reasons to have this process and to have regional boards, but we need to proceed with careful thought and consideration. While regionalization seems to be the trend, some provinces with regionalized plans are currently re-evaluating them. Saskatchewan and New Brunswick are, in fact, reassessing their regionalized systems and moving back to a central health system because it is both effective, cost effective and necessary to ensure all residents have access to the same health care regardless of where they live. Why? Perhaps it is because regional boards cannot tackle all the challenges. I think our recent debate around the need for early detection and screening programs for breast cancer has pointed out the potential shortcomings of handing all the responsibility over to regional boards. It is not enough to have regional boards setting individual priorities. Where does that leave residents whose problems do not fall into the list of priorities of their particular region? This example, and other arguments made by the Northwest Territories Medical Association, are reasons for us to proceed cautiously and carry on diligent consultation with the many organizations who can contribute valuable insight. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Oral Question 666-13(4): High Cost of Healthy Foods

On Monday, October 14, 1997, the Member for Baffin Central asked me what the Department of Transportation was doing to help families buy healthy foods.

As the Member mentioned, transportation to the remote, off-highway communities is limited to the air and marine modes. The operation of safe and reliable community airports makes it possible for air carriers to bring scheduled air services to these remote communities. Although the department cannot influence retail prices directly, today's scheduled air services deliver a wider variety and more regular supply of perishable, fresh foods than was possible even a few years ago.

At the beginning of this session, in a statement to the Assembly, I reported that, with the northern air carriers, the Department of Transportation is doing everything in its power to protect northern communities from the effects of NAV Canada's proposed new fees for air navigation services. An increase in transportation costs makes everything a small community needs just that much more expensive.

The Department of Transportation has a strong and productive working relationship with the Canadian Coast Guard. The department acts as the Coast Guard's delivery arm in the Northwest Territories for the maintenance and improvement of shore facilities improve the efficiency of cargo handling and help to keep down the cost of resupply.

In 1993 the Department of Transportation helped the Department of Public Works and Services restructure the fuel resupply contracts for the Keewatin region and eastern Arctic communities in 1993. The reorganization resulted in an eight percent annual saving in the cost of delivered fuel. In 1995, the department persuaded the Canadian Coast Guard to award three-year contracts for the eastern Arctic sealift. The longer term contracts resulted in savings of between two and 17 percent in dry cargo freight rates.

Whether through better physical infrastructure or the rationalization of more cost effective transportation services, the Department of Transportation is looking for new ways to bring down the cost of northern transportation. Lower

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transportation costs are essential to bringing a higher standard of living for the families in remote communities.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize my old teacher, Mr. Carnia, who is sitting in the gallery. He was our Grade 5 and Grade 6 teacher in Coral Harbour. We appreciate his commitment to his students during the time he was teaching in Coral Harbour and the people in Coral Harbour will always remember his smile and brown curly hair which is gone.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to welcome an old teacher who used to teach in Fort McPherson many years ago and who is now the president of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, Ms. Pat Thomas.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 693-13(4): Job Losses Due to Community Empowerment

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Honourable Manito Thompson. My question is, since the community empowerment started some months ago, how many people have lost their jobs because of this community empowerment? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 693-13(4): Job Losses Due to Community Empowerment

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure the Members of this House would be yelling and screaming at me if there were any layoffs in their communities. Up until now, we have not had complaints from the communities who are receiving transfers. One of the main objectives of community empowerment is to increase local employment by transferring functions and programs to the community level. Through community empowerment, local people have more opportunities for employment. Being transferred from one department to another department is just a different boss. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 693-13(4): Job Losses Due to Community Empowerment

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will give an example first, before I ask another question. For example, GLO positions were full-time about two years ago, and they were transferred to hamlet councils and municipalities. If that was part of community empowerment, then why are they in half-time positions? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson

Further Return To Question 693-13(4): Job Losses Due to Community Empowerment

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I recall the GLO's were already downsized in their previous positions and responsibilities where they were just delivering mail from one office to another office. When the hamlets took over the GLO position, it was through an agreement with the territorial government and the municipalities. We would not have transferred the GLO's to the hamlets if the hamlets opposed it, but instead hamlets were agreeing to this proposal and the transfers. We have given them different

responsibilities which might be different from their previous jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 694-13(4): Request for Proposals Process

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my Member's statement, the RFP system as practised by the Government of the Northwest Territories seems to be fundamentally anti-market and non-competitive.

My question is for the Premier, why would the government use an RFP as opposed to publicly tendering? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 694-13(4): Request for Proposals Process

HON. DON MORIN:

Request for proposal is a public tender process. It is just another process that we use to request proposals of interested parties interested in certain works done by this government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 694-13(4): Request for Proposals Process

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the RFP is publicly tendered in that you advertise in the paper, but it is not publicly tendered in the fact that we use the public tender guidelines. My question for the Premier is, are the rules for an RFP estimate more fluid than a publicly tendered contract? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

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Further Return To Question 694-13(4): Request for Proposals Process

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have strict guidelines for requests for proposals and it is implemented by the department that is doing it. It is a public tender as we know what we want built or we know what we want and we request a public tender for prices on it. A request for proposal is when we are not exactly sure how the public will respond. They will not only tell us what they will do, but they will tell us how they will do it and they will tell us the price. Then we calculate all of those things and award. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 694-13(4): Request for Proposals Process

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let us get this right now. The Premier is telling me that we do an RFP, we request a proposal. Then in the paper we advertise it as such. So x-number of firms send in a contract bid on what was requested. Some group decides which is the proposal they want and that is the one that the government accepts. On a publicly tendered contract, Mr. Speaker, the person sends in the bid. At the end of the day, it is published, and tells how many people have bid on it, then who won the contract and what the amount of the contract was. The RFP does not do that. So, my question then is to the Premier, if he can explain the process, what rules and regulations? We already know that in some cases regulations and policies of this government are being circumvented. I wonder what types of rules and regulations are in place to guide the RFP. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 694-13(4): Request for Proposals Process

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could probably try to explain it over and over to this Member, but I do not know if he would fully understand it at this time. So what I will do is make a full briefing available, especially for him. All he has to do is have the date arranged and I will make arrangements with my

competent Minister of Department of Public Works to have that briefing for the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 694-13(4): Request for Proposals Process

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in these dark days and these dark rooms and these little briefings that we get, that is great and fine, but I am not the only person asking this question. How about the other 10,000 contractors in the Northwest Territories who put in requests on these RFPs and do not have an opportunity to know what is happening. So, my question again is to the Minister, although I have a problem understanding some of this stuff like negotiated contracts and the sole-sourced which he agreed and now they are publishing, my question on the RFP, maybe he can explain the regulations. Are there regulations and what regulations?

MR. SPEAKER:

Two questions. Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 694-13(4): Request for Proposals Process

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One thing I learnt very early when I was a Minister in charge of the contracting for this government was if 20 people bid or 20 people took out a request for proposal, I was guaranteed that I was going to make 19 of those people mad. That is just a part of the job, but public tender, once again I will say, is we know what we want. We go to public tender. People bid. We accept their bids and the lowest of those bids gets that. The request for proposal is when we want a function performed on behalf of this government and we request for proposal, not only do they tell us what they are going to bid, they tell us what they are going to do and how they are going to do it. Then we have a committee in the department that evaluates that and it is very strict and straightforward. Then, they award accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 695-13(4): Donation for a Mammogram Machine

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng, in regard to my Member's statement. I would like to applaud the fund raising efforts by Yellowknife residents who gave up their valuable Sunday afternoon to participate in the Run for a Cure. Regarding fund-raising for mammogram machine which will aid in the early detection of breast cancer, I would like to know if the Government of the Northwest Territories is willing to make a donation to the purchase of a mammogram machine?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 695-13(4): Donation for a Mammogram Machine

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government does not make donations. We make capital contributions for equipment depending on what the boards request on a priority basis. We have to weigh the needs between the different boards and weigh which boards may have deficiencies in trying to catch up with other standards in the other boards. It is part of the whole capital equipment program, Mr. Speaker, that is reviewed on a yearly basis depending on priorities and requests that are submitted, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 695-13(4): Donation for a Mammogram Machine

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MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in 1997 the Northwest Territories remains the only jurisdiction which has not yet officially completed plans to implement a territorial-wide organized scanned mammogram program for the early detection or treatment of breast cancer. When will the Government of the Northwest Territories join the rest

of Canada in developing and implementing an organized territorial-wide scanning mammogram program for the residents of the Northwest Territories?

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 695-13(4): Donation for a Mammogram Machine

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government has actively pursued the development and completion of guidelines for breast cancer screening programs that have been submitted to the regional boards as I have said in the past. It is anticipated that the regional boards will establish working groups to identify what their issues and specific requirements are and the actions necessary to allow all woman access to quality breast cancer screening services, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 695-13(4): Donation for a Mammogram Machine

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find it pretty ironic that the Minister can spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to do a study with a company which is a southern firm like Med-Emerg to Med-Emerg International company to do a study on health care, yet he does not have time to care for the health of the residents of the Northwest Territories, the ones that are dying of cancer today. Yet he says that he has to come forth in regard to leaving the direction to the health boards to come forth with this suggestion. As a Member of House, I am asking the Minister to find the appropriate funds to be raised to assist the residents of the Northwest Territories in implementing the mammogram program and also for a machine so that people can have early detection of this disease.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 695-13(4): Donation for a Mammogram Machine

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, having an mammography machine is certainly an important aspect of breast cancer screening. It is not the only aspect though, annual clinic examinations and self-examinations are an important part of early detection as well. I do not disagree with the Member if he feels that it is a high priority to put some of our scarce financial dollars and resources into a mammography machine, then we will consider it, but I would like some suggestions of what programs he would like us to take it from, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 695-13(4): Donation for a Mammogram Machine

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Minister has left it up to me to find where we can save money and put it into this program, I suggest we stop doing all these studies with southern firms and use that money for the residents of the Northwest Territories so that we can find monies for the health and well-being of the people in the Northwest Territories. That is one area that he can start.

--Applause

--Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. There was no question there. Oral question. Mr. Ootes.

Question 696-13(4): RFP's for Keewatin Pipelines

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Public Works and Services announced today improvements to the Keewatin fuel resupply in that he stated that they would be issuing a request for proposals in November to construct delivery pipelines. This issue was discussed somewhat at one of our committee meetings for resource management. The question I have, Mr. Speaker, regarding requests for proposals

in this case is, why a request for proposal versus tenders? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 696-13(4): RFP's for Keewatin Pipelines

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the reason for why we are going to be putting out a request for proposal is because there are a number of issues that have to be dealt with in the contract that include where the pipelines will be located, the environmental aspect of pipelines, the size of ships that would be able to go in because there are hydrographic issues to be dealt with. Those are the kinds of things that the government does not have answers to right now. So what we are going to be doing is asking companies to submit to us proposals on how they would deal with those problems and at what cost. That is the reason why we were going on the RFP route rather than the public tender route.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 696-13(4): RFP's for Keewatin Pipelines

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My intent was to pursue the question of RFPs and in that regard, I have a question for Mr. Arlooktoo. Are RFPs under contract regulations of the Government of the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

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Further Return To Question 696-13(4): RFP's for Keewatin Pipelines

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is something that I would have to check into. I do not know.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 696-13(4): RFP's for Keewatin Pipelines

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell us if the award amount and who the RFP goes to and who bid on those RFPs is available, published and advertised? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 696-13(4): RFP's for Keewatin Pipelines

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Normally we do not publish who replied to RFPs. We do, however, publish the winner and the cost of the contract. There have been cases, though in the past requests of companies that at the request of MLAs where we will make certain information available as to how and why a certain company won a contract or on the flip side why a certain company lost an RFP.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 696-13(4): RFP's for Keewatin Pipelines

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question, are there mechanisms in place to monitor the RFP process and awarding of those RFPs? What mechanisms are in place?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 696-13(4): RFP's for Keewatin Pipelines

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would say the varies from contract to contract, but the evaluation process of

RFPs are very technical in nature. We have experts and technical staff from different departments that evaluate these proposals and assign percentage points depending on how well their proposal goes towards the completion of a certain project that we have.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 697-13(4): Changes to the Wildlife Act

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to Mr. Kakfwi, Minister responsible for Wildlife and Economic Development. The Minister released today Wildlife Business Regulations and the package that will change those regulations. As the Minister is aware, I have brought several concerns on the Wildlife Act to his attention in the past. My question to the Minister is, could he advise me what, if any of these changes, affect the current hunting regulations for individuals?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 697-13(4): Changes to the Wildlife Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the issue that the Member raised about providing for changes to the privilege of hunting in the Northwest Territories to certain members of our community has been raised and it would require changes to the Wildlife Act. It is my information that the legislation, and the changes required to legislation are not anywhere near the priority list of this government. We do not expect with the backlog that we have that we will be doing any of those changes that we had hoped for earlier in our term to the Wildlife Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 697-13(4): Changes to the Wildlife Act

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the Minister did not understand my question. What I wanted to know was the current Wildlife Business Regulations that he has signed off on, are there any changes in those regulations that effect individual hunters?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 697-13(4): Changes to the Wildlife Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 697-13(4): Changes to the Wildlife Act

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know what consultation took place and what parties were consulted on the changes he is introducing today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 697-13(4): Changes to the Wildlife Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I believe I had responded to the question earlier this week, specifically, the consultation which had taken place in regard to the amendments that I have announced today. What I do know is that extensive consultation had been undertaken by the department with aboriginal groups, members of the general

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public, people involved in hunting and other stakeholders who have an interest in the amendments we have announced today. The specifics are not the type of details that I retained. If the Member requires more detail than what I have just given him, then he can ask for them, and I will provide it to him. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 697-13(4): Changes to the Wildlife Act

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I would require from the Minister is some information as to where I can get a copy of these proposed changes to the regulations? The ones he has signed off on. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 697-13(4): Changes to the Wildlife Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be pleased to provide copies of the amendments to all Members. I will be sending them to their offices as early as Monday of next week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 698-13(4): Meeting on Digital Communication Network

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Minister of FMBS, who is also responsible for the digital network contract with Ardicom. Mr. Speaker, my question is based on the meeting, Tuesday of this week, which I think was a good first step and overdue as indicated. It is a good first step at bringing the stakeholders and service providers together to start ironing out some of these outstanding concerns. Would the Minister be prepared to initiate another face-to-face meeting this time with the local Internet providers, the Government of the Northwest Territories, Ardicom and NorthwesTel representatives to see if they can further hammer out these technical questions and hopefully, some sort of common ground, so this thing could move ahead in a cooperative, productive fashion?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 698-13(4): Meeting on Digital Communication Network

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be only too happy to try to coordinate all the parties involved in this important initiative that was set forward by this government earlier last year. I do understand there was some communication problem with respect to the last conference call because of some weak up-links in the conference call system. I will take it upon myself to give my department some direction as to bring forward all the parties to a meeting to see if we can reach the appropriate compromise to move forward on this important initiative and try to, where possible, answer the serious concerns and issues that the local Internet suppliers have. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 698-13(4): Meeting on Digital Communication Network

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for that cooperative gesture. Could the Minister commit to trying to hold that meeting sometime before the end of November? Would he also indicate whether he would be assisting the local Internet providers, who have to come in with some of their costs to get here?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 698-13(4): Meeting on Digital Communication Network

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I would be only too happy to try to organize a meeting before the end of November. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 698-13(4): Meeting on Digital Communication Network

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, I was not very clear. I must have mumbled the second part of my question. Could the Minister indicate, given the fact of the importance of this initiative, the faltering of this process in terms of getting off the ground and the importance of bringing the players together to resolve the issues; would he also be willing to consider assisting the Internet providers who have to come from afar to assist them with their costs to come to Yellowknife for this very important meeting? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 698-13(4): Meeting on Digital Communication Network

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, the easy answer would be no, but then my honourable colleague would say I am not cooperating. What I will do is I will look into it. It depends on how many people have to come to the meeting and what it is going to cost given these tight fiscal times? I will have to see if my budget can afford it. I cannot really make any public commitment. What I will make is a commitment to meet, to organize the meeting and to work in a spirit of cooperation with Internet and the Ardicom in our department. But it would be a little unfair, as I am sure my honourable colleague, for me, to commit today, not knowing what the actual costs would be. But I will certainly look into it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

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Question 699-13(4): Mandatory Leave at Christmas

MR. ROLAND:

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

for FMBS. Mr. Speaker, almost a year ago I brought up the issue of Donny Days and how a lot of the employees would feel about taking those days, but at another time. Not at a time that has been stipulated to them as the only time you shall take them. I believe the Minister at that time said that he would open the door to the union to look at this issue once again. I am wondering if that has been the case and what has come of it? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 699-13(4): Mandatory Leave at Christmas

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, Mr. Speaker. Of course, my door is open all of the time to my colleagues, the UNW, the NWTTA, the private sector, rich people and poor people. So, it is open all the time. That offer still stands. This issue of Donny Days was part of the negotiations with the UNW. It is my understanding that there is satisfaction with it. But if my honourable colleague feels that perhaps some Members of his constituency are not satisfied with it, I would ask my department to talk to the UNW and try to resolve the concern that some of his constituents may have. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 699-13(4): Mandatory Leave at Christmas

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is more than just a few members of my community. There are probably a lot of Members' communities. What I want to know is, will the Minister open the door to this issue? He said he will look at it, but will he open the door to the issue because what I have heard in the community at a recent meeting I held was the fact a letter was received and dates were issued? It said these were the days your Donny Days shall fall on. Is that the case, or will they actually open this up and rediscuss it with the union? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 699-13(4): Mandatory Leave at Christmas

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You have to have some coordinated approach to these Donny Days. You cannot have everybody taking them at different times. That is why we negotiated the days with the union. As I made an announcement earlier, yesterday I believe, we have given the union notice that we would like to sit down and bargain. I would suggest to my colleague and any of my other colleagues who are having problems with this issue, should advise their union representatives to put that on the table when we get to the normal bargaining process. This arrangement was bargained that we now have. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 699-13(4): Mandatory Leave at Christmas

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess in some eyes it is considered bargaining and in other eyes it is considered bullying. Mr. Speaker, if indeed we have noted that the Minister said that he has gone to negotiations again with the UNW, will they indeed look at this and will that letter be pulled back, that has been issued, to state the dates that have already been stated? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 699-13(4): Mandatory Leave at Christmas

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, if my memory serves me correctly I understand there was a democratic vote on the collective agreement in which the majority of members voted to accept it. You can say shame all you want. Are you suggesting that this is not a democratic process? Mr. Speaker. My apologies. What was the question? Yes, no, the answer is no.

We would not be prepared at this late juncture to re-examine that. I do not believe we are closing the door. What I am saying is we are late into the process. We are in October now and Santa Claus will be coming soon, and jingle bells and all that stuff. It is a little late at this time to perhaps consider that. What I am saying to my colleague is we are back at bargaining with the UNW on wages and benefits, et cetera. I would suggest, in all seriousness to him, despite the cat calls from his colleague from Iqaluit, that the bargaining process is the appropriate place to put this issue on the agenda. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 700-13(4): Provision of Transportation Contract Details

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Honourable Mr. Antoine, Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, transportation contracts make up a fairly large portion of the capital expenditures of this government. As comparison, we request reports from mining companies like BHP, to identify how they are meeting their goals and objectives of the grievance they have in regard to local employment and business opportunities. However, we seem to lack any information from the departments as to how successful our BIP Program is in regard to these large contracts.

Mr. Speaker, I recall last May I was asking questions of the honourable Member as to the results of the past year's Highway Construction Program and as to how beneficial it was to local residents and businesses? The report did not seem to prove up to the objective, so therefore, I wonder if the Minister

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would be able to supply to this House, on an ongoing basis, the results of these large contracts? Whether or not, what is the percentage of local employment? What is the percentage of businesses that were employed from the territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine. Two questions.

Return To Question 700-13(4): Provision of Transportation Contract Details

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the Department of Transportation we have a number of major projects that we have approved every year in our budget. Some of these contracts we handle ourselves, mainly the highway contracts. But the other contracts like the airport terminal building is handled by the Department of Public Works and Services and their tendering processes. But in the highway construction portion of the department, we do not have that many contracts that were issued last year. On the major part of it, we just had two. The amount of northern employment which we are trying to aim for is as high a northern employment content, as possible. We aim for about 95 percent for northern employment on all future highway construction and operation contracts. This department is attempting to implement certain measures to try to reach that goal.

Just for statistics, Mr. Speaker, this past year we had two contracts on a major section and the northern content for that one had 62 percent northern content. The other one was 51 percent northern content. However, it is not that high of a content, but we try everything we can to aim for as high a northern content, and on an ongoing basis, we could commit to providing regular reports to the Member and to this House as we move along in trying to achieve our objectives of 95 percent northern employment on all future highway construction operations. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 700-13(4): Provision of Transportation Contract Details

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the Minister's department does do some monitoring of contracts. However, as a Member, I am not aware of the results of this monitoring. I am not sure whether his department monitors it or whether Mr. Kakfwi's department, which seems to be responsible for the BIP is monitoring it as well. But regardless of who is monitoring it, as a Member, I believe that we should be entitled to this information and, therefore, we would see whether or not the program is being successful. Right now I am referring

to the BIP. Overall it would help Members to see where the large expenditures are in fact beneficial to local residents and local businesses. My question to the Minister is, if someone is monitoring, if it is his department or Mr. Kakfwi's department is monitoring this thing, are having in some instances where we have had to refuse BIP as it has been outlined in the contracts? In other words, did contractors live up to their commitments under the BIP? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 700-13(4): Provision of Transportation Contract Details

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am unable to answer this specific question at this time. Whether we do in the Department of Transportation, I am not aware of that. Like I said earlier, the Department of Public Works and Services do take on the contracting portion of it for us on our behalf, as they do for other departments in this government. I am going to have to consult with the colleagues to see if that is the case. That is the reason why I am unable to answer the question at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 701-13(4): Cost of the Med-Emerg Report

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng. It is in regard to my Member's statement and also in regard to the reasoning that we are unable to fund a mammogram program in the Northwest Territories, especially for a territorial-wide organization to scan our residents to try to detect cancer at an early stage. Yet, time and time again, I stood up in this House, especially dealing with this particular Minister. I have asked for items that are of concern to my riding. I did again in a Member's statement and I find it ironic, that we have a study that is going on in regard to the Med-Emerg Report which I believe to date, and the Minister could maybe assist me on this one, in regard to the amount of money that we have spent to date on this study? Could he clarify if it has cost this government to date, \$850,000?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 701-13(4): Cost of the Med-Emerg Report

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a draft strategic plan that was undertaken and developed by Med-Emerg International. The cost was approximately \$500,000 for the plan and approximately \$250,000 for some of the costs incurred as a result of carrying out the consultations and the development of the plan. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 701-13(4): Cost of the Med-Emerg Report

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, in regard to the mammogram program, I believe that they were looking for \$60,000, yet were able to sole-source contracts such as this in a range of some \$800,000. Yet the government keeps telling myself, the community I represent and the people of the

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Northwest Territories we do not have money for their health care. We have money for consultations, especially southern consultants to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on studies, yet these individuals do not know what it is like to live in communities, having to go see a doctor in which you have to wait a number of weeks before you see one. It appalls me that we can afford to spend this kind of money. Also, why was this contract sole sourced to a southern company and not put out to public tender?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 701-13(4): Cost of the Med-Emerg Report

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said in the past, it is because of the fact that this company had experience in the medical profession and could draw on bringing in the medical expertise in a timely fashion to put together the draft strategic plan which we needed to move forward with in planning some of the facilities throughout the Northwest Territories, and then guiding us in some of the reform initiatives and consultations to our partners and the stakeholders throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. I would like to remind the Members, when you ask a question about your preambles, to not continue to do a preamble before you ask your supplementary. You should be asking your supplementary based on your preamble. Mr. Krutko, Supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 701-13(4): Cost of the Med-Emerg Report

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the study that is going on and being able to find funds to assist or implement the hospitals in finding the equipment that is needed, such as a mammogram machine, assisting the doctors and the nurses in the communities to assist the residents to detect breast cancer, is that part of the study that is presently being done in the area of \$800,000? Would that pay for a machine such as this?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 701-13(4): Cost of the Med-Emerg Report

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is not a study that is being done, as I indicated. It is for the development of a draft strategic plan. The draft of Med-Emerg International is complete. As far as we are concerned, we are at the stage now where the boards have taken the document out to their stakeholders and are undertaking public consultations to find out to what the concerns are and if the initiatives and the direction outlined in the plan is an appropriate fashion to try to continue to steer the development and reform our Health and Social

Services system. It is specific to strategic planning for Health and Social Services in trying to provide for two integrated systems, both in Nunavut and the western Northwest Territories, and then trying to integrate services on a community, regional and territorial level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 702-13(4): Status of the Business Incentive Policy

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Speaker, over the past year we have, as an Assembly, discussed on numerous occasions and I believe even a committee was established which I was a member of, to look at the BIP and to review the terms of that particular subsidy. Mr. Speaker there were some recommendations that came out of committee of the whole which were put to the Minister's department, and I would like to know what are the results of those recommendations? Did the department accept them or were there any amendments made to the BIP?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 702-13(4): Status of the Business Incentive Policy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must say that of all of us Ministers, no one was overly anxious to take on this job of tackling potential and possible revisions to the Business Incentive Policy. Each of the elements that make up the policy are rather contentious, hated and loved by different sectors and members of the public. There is the policy itself, which is neither black or white. It is a policy which in general terms, we believe, as a government, has brought enormous benefits to the people and the economy of the north, but it does need some revisions. I have been tasked as a Minister to undertake consultation to look at potential revision to the policy. I have done that. We have taken some suggestions from the standing committee, none of which were unanimous. I must add, none of the amendments that were suggested by

the committee were unanimous. So I have the task of trying to come up with some proposed revisions, going to Cabinet with them, getting some blessing and to then take the proposed revisions out to the public for further consultation. I have yet to approach Cabinet to make the suggestions to the revisions in detail. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 702-13(4): Status of the Business Incentive Policy

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that nobody in Cabinet wants to make the changes, the understanding I get from the Minister's response. We are now into two years almost of this new government, with new ways of doing things. I was getting the impression that we are going to end our terms before anything happens. I wonder if there is some way that the Minister could put a little urgency on this matter? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

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Further Return To Question 702-13(4): Status of the Business Incentive Policy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I must remind the Member that I did not shrink from the responsibility. I did take on this task with all of the naivety of a Minister that thought he could deliver all types of only positive, amendment revisions that would be totally supported, by not only members of the committee but all Members of the Legislature and the general public. There is no such creature possible. The present policy has, on any given day, great numbers of supporters and also retractors as well. The revisions, in order to make sense, also requires that the public be quite informed as well as the Members of the Legislature about what the nature of the existing policy is in the first place and to get a fairly accurate assessment, an honest assessment, of what the benefits of the policy have been to date. I know that in many corners some people have been sceptic, some people have absolutely refused to believe that there have been

any benefits derived from the implementation of this policy in the first instance. It has been difficult. One only has to recall the discussions at the standing committee stage to understand how controversial and difficult it is to arrive at even some remote assemblance of consensus, on any number of whole range of issues that this policy gives rise to.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 702-13(4): Status of the Business Incentive Policy

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree that there was a lot of disagreement amongst Members on the Committee but there was one thing everybody seemed to agree on, that was the amendment of the grandfather clause, whereby large firms such as big airlines, Imperial Oil even, are listed as people who are eligible for BIP. I think the membership did agree that those large firms should be removed from the BIP list. There were some positive aspects of this whole operation. I am surprised that we have not moved on at least those that an agreement were on. So I will ask the Minister, if no one in the Cabinet wants to handle this, would he consider handing it over to me?

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

The question is out of order. Oral Questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 703-13(4): Amendments to the Public Service Act

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, earlier I followed with quite an interest when Mr. Roland was asking the Minister about the Donny Days. My question is on the revision of history as presented by the Minister. Would the Minister consider collective bargaining, when he could change the terms of conditions of employment because of the PSAC Act, Public Service Acts amendments that was passed in this House. Will he entertain an amendment to the Act to allow real collective bargaining? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 703-13(4): Amendments to the Public Service Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

It is a ridiculous question which requires a direct answer. No.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 703-13(4): Amendments to the Public Service Act

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A year and a half ago, almost two years ago, when the Public Service Act amendment came up and I kept bringing up some concerns within Caucus and the House and it was passed, I agreed that, indeed, legally it is in place. But it is an unfair draconian act and it does not allow free and collective bargaining which is proved by the recent court case won by the NWTTA. My question to the Minister is, he will not look at an amendment, but would he look at taking the act out? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 703-13(4): Amendments to the Public Service Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

No.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 703-13(4): Amendments to the Public Service Act

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in collective bargaining, there are two parties sitting around a table trying to work out their differences. When you have a hammer held over a person, they cannot bargain because at the end of the day, the Minister can write and change the terms and conditions of employment. I wonder if the Minister could inform this House if he

would sit down with the other union groups under the Public Service Act and work out an amendment for them? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 703-13(4): Amendments to the Public Service Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am not sure which part of no my honourable colleague does not understand, the "n" or the "o".

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 703-13(4): Amendments to the Public Service Act

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MR. PICCO:

Mr. Speaker, it is incredible that this government is finally getting out of the deficit situation. We will have a small surplus. It will go against the deficit. We are moving into new times. This Public Service Act amendment if not changed will be grandfathered into Nunavut where we have lost our VTAs and other areas of concern. My question is a real one because this Act will be grandfathered to Nunavut after April 1, 1999. I would like to see it taken out, thrown away with and put in the garbage. My supplementary question to the Minister, and I ask this in all seriousness, Mr. Speaker, would he look at a small working group in this House to review the Public Service Act and then report back to Mr. Todd and hopefully with some changes. Thank you.

Further Return To Question 703-13(4): Amendments to the Public Service Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

No.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 704-13(4): Breast Screening Program

MR. OOTES:

Questions were raised earlier from the Minister of Health and Social Services and some comments after the sole-sourced contract to Med-Emerg. Just a comment on that. It was originally stated that this would affect life and safety of northerners and that was why that contract was awarded. Now, I would like to refer, Mr. Speaker, to my comments earlier today about regionalization. I pointed out in some provinces, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick are reassessing their regionalization system. The reason for this is that regionalism does not cover consistently across the board it citizens and it is not cost effective. I think I brought forward the point about the need for an early detection screening program. The Minister stated that he is going to put that before the health boards throughout the Northwest Territories. If one board adopts that but other boards do not, then how do other people, how do they get effected by that, Mr. Speaker. I would like to have the Minister tell me if he would take the responsibility for the breast screening program under his department and institute a program?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 704-13(4): Breast Screening Program

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our department has, as I said, developed the guidelines that have been passed on to the boards. It is up to the boards to determine what their priorities are. Not all boards have the same priorities. If they deem that there is more support required and they are going to look at the guidelines that were given to them. If they see there are more requirements, more need, more coordination then we will assist them in putting that in place, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 704-13(4): Breast Screening Program

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yellowknife is raising funds for a mammogram machine that means that Stanton

Regional Hospital will have a mammogram machine, but the Baffin region will not, the Inuvik region will not. We have consistently pointed out that what we need is literature, we need a portable machine, not a portable machine perhaps located in Iqaluit that does not service the other areas. We need consistency in this. Will the Minister address this particular problem? It is of concern to all residents throughout the Northwest Territories and it affects a lot of families. Mr. Krutko's family was affected just a week and a half ago by this. We need a program, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister again if he will consider taking responsibility for this program?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 704-13(4): Breast Screening Program

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility in working with our partners, the boards, to ensure there is a program in place, that breast screening and mammography, if it is required, for women is accessible. It is not our responsibility to make it accessible in every community. What we are trying to do is work out a plan with our partners, the boards, to see what their priorities are. How we can integrate the usage. In the case of the mammography machine here in Stanton, that is fine. We have a large portion of the population that passes through Stanton that can have access while they are here for other appointments, to the mammography machine. In the instance of those regions that do not send their patients to Stanton, if it happens to be in other jurisdictions then we can look at making the provisions available again to have mammography services available at the centre at the locations where they go for their medical treatment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 704-13(4): Breast Screening Program

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister would tell me if the department has addressed the problem of literature available in aboriginal languages,

languages throughout the Northwest Territories. The question I asked him a year ago in which he ducked the question at that time, wondering if he could answer the question today, Mr. Speaker, whether literature has been produced in the aboriginal languages regarding early screening programs for breast cancer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question period is over. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 704-13(4): Breast Screening Program

HON. KELVIN NG:

As I indicated in previous answers, the regional implementation groups will be looking at what their needs are in the communication strategies including literature which is a specific part of that. Obviously if there were

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requirements, it would be done in conjunction with the regional and cultural needs of that service area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker. Return to written question 36-13(4) asked by Mr. Enuaraq to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development concerning the transfer of renewable resource officer position in Broughton Island.

Return To Written Question 36-13(4): Transfer of Renewable Resource Officer Position To Broughton Island

The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is currently working on a draft agreement to transfer the renewable resource officer position to the community of Broughton Island. However, an outstanding issue is the transfer of authority to enforce government legislation.

In an effort to address this issue, I have instructed Mr. Clay Buchanan, regional superintendent, Iqaluit, to meet with the Mayor and Council of Broughton Island. Mr. Buchanan will also discuss the costs associated with this position.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Return to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Reply 4-13(4)

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to replies to opening address, we always hear this question about fairness, equity in all regions, communities across the north. Yet, I feel that my region has been under-utilized, and not getting the adequate support it should through this House to questions I raised as a Member of the Mackenzie Delta and particular Ministers. The Premier states in his opening address that this government will be cooperative in working along with Members of this House, communities, Aboriginal Summit and other organizations. The things that happened in this House seems to boggle our minds at times wondering who they represent. Do they represent big industry in regard to sole-sourced contracts, in regard to southern firms who seem to be getting a majority of this work, and also in regard to the residents of the Northwest Territories, who are not getting the adequate support on programs and services that they should be? Not a cut had been made over the last two years in dealing with the deficit. I am sure you can understand that. The practice at this government continues to be, support big business and forget the little people in the communities who do not have jobs; who have poor health care; who basically have high dropout rates in regard to alcohol and drug problems. It still seems to be not of much importance to this government, and this particular Minister.

I think that with the cuts that we made especially in my region, the healing program, Delta House, and also in regard to calls from my community, especially in relation to concerns of individuals who go to the hospital time and time again and not getting the adequate health care that they need. We even talked about fair, fair in what sense? Fair in regard to the bottom line? Or fair to the jobs that are basically created by large companies? Or fair that we are no

better off than people that fly over us to southern corporations, the mining companies?

This government is spending thousands if not millions of dollars, catering to southern institutions, southern consultant companies. Yet we stand here and say we are working for the benefit of the Northwest Territories. At the end of the day, consultants will go home to southern Canada. The report will possibly sit on the shelf like most of them do, and the health care of the people of the Northwest Territories will continue to deteriorate. It states that we are elected as leaders to serve the whole Northwest Territories. Not just our ridings. Time and time again we talked about division happening in two years, in regard to allowing the Nunavut government and the people of Nunavut to decide for themselves what kind of government they want. Yet, we impose things on that government in relation to the type of institutions we are going to have to adopt, in light of there is 18 months to division. This government continues to find new ways of imposing structures on governments, and the people of the east.

It seems to me that this is just another way to create a new loophole in the bureaucracy we already have which basically meets the needs of a few individuals but not the needs of the territory as a whole. Mr. Speaker, I find it awfully interesting that time and time again I stand up in this House, I raise questions in relation to those issues and items; and we continue to say we will support each other, but at the end of the day, looking through the budget, going through the business plan seeing where a lot of money is being spent and seeing progress made in some regions, while none in others. Mr. Speaker, this government talks about representing the territory as a whole. I would like to ask when will it start? Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Henry.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 9-13(4): Report of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the latter part of January and early February, 1997, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Sam Gargan, referred a total of four items to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures. The committee was to discuss the amount of time allocated for both Members' statements and oral question period as proposed by the Member for Iqaluit, the reporting

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procedures for an ad hoc or joint working groups as requested by the third person of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, and issues of order and decorum in the Legislative Assembly as directed by the Speaker. The standing committee met on February 6, 1997 to address these issues and finalize this report on October 10th, 1997.

First issue, Mr. Speaker, was Members' statements. The question before the committee on this particular issue was whether or not the existing two and a half minute time limit on Members' statements should be increased to three and a half minutes. While reviewing the issue, committee members noted that the existing time limit was the most generous of any legislature in the country. Members also noted that most other jurisdictions in Canada kept the total amount of time spent on this item each day, but the Northwest Territories' Legislative Assembly had no such restrictions. In addition to this, the committee recognizes that on any given day, a Member can ask for unanimous consent to have the two and a half minute time limit extended for his or her statement. Therefore, the standing committee on Rules and Procedures unanimously recommended that the maximum time allotted for a Member's statement remain unchanged at two and a half minutes.

The second item, Mr. Speaker, was the oral question period. The Standing Committee was asked to review the current 60 minute time allotment for oral question period and determine if there was a need to increase the limit to 90 minutes. While reviewing this issue, committee Members once again noted that the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly has one of the longest oral question periods in the country and identified that just as with Members' statements, any Member could request unanimous consent to extend question period beyond the 60 minutes allotted. However, committee Members did outline their frustration with the fact that in some cases, much of the 60 minutes is taken up by both lengthy preambles to the question and long drawn out answers. The committee felt that oral question period could be

improved by encouraging the Speaker to play a more active role in ensuring that both questions and answers are succinct and to the point. The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures unanimously recommends that the current 60 minute time allotment for oral question period not be extended and further, that the committee supports the Speaker's strict application of the guidelines for oral questions and the rules of the Legislative Assembly.

Third topic was an ad hoc and joint working group reporting process. In recent months, Members of the Legislative Assembly have found it useful to establish an ad hoc and/or joint working groups to deal with specific issues that arise. However, the more open style of government, the new standing committee structure of the 13th Assembly and recent experiences with joint Minister and Member working groups have raised questions regarding who these groups report to, and where their authority is derived from? The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures noted that committees made up of both Members and Ordinary Members should be used only under particular circumstances. In order to eliminate confusion respecting authority and reporting requirements, the committee felt that this special joint committee should only be established as provided under Rule 88(1) of the Legislative Assembly which states: at any time the Assembly may appoint a Special Committee for any purpose or to consider any matter referred to it by the Assembly. The committee recognizes that motions to establish special committees include the terms of reference for that committee, and if their authority is derived from the House, they report to the House. Therefore, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that joint committees only be established under section 88(1) of the rules of the Legislative Assembly and having been so established, such committees shall report directly to the Legislative Assembly. On the ad hoc and subcommittee and working groups, the committee knows that the authority to establish a subcommittee or a working group must be derived from an appropriate legislative body in order to maintain accountability and provide a means of recording the group's findings.

Therefore, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommend the following as the most appropriate process: - ad hoc committee, working groups and subcommittees are struck by a standing committee to address specific issues - subordinate body meets and develops its report to the standing committee from which this authority is derived - the

standing committee, at its pleasure, reviews and/or revises and adopts the report as deemed appropriate and under the authority vested in the standing committee as a body of the Legislature, the committee may present the report to the House.

On the question of order and decorum, Members' attire, this issue referred by the Speaker arose as a result of an incident in the House whereby a Member felt that the attire of another Member was offensive. The Standing Committee reviewed the section of the rules of the Legislative Assembly prior to recommending a mechanism to help deal with such situations.

Rule 12(9) states when in the Legislative Assembly, every Member shall be attired in native dress or in a manner appropriate to the dignity of the Assembly. During the discussions, Members soon discovered that to define native dress or in a manner appropriate would be almost impossible and instead suggested that the issue of appropriate attire be left to the prudent discretion of the Speaker.

The committee therefore recommends that the following process be established: if a Member is offended by the attire of another Member, he or she may bring the issue to the attention of the Speaker in writing, outlining the nature of the concern and requesting the Speaker's intervention. If, in the Speaker's opinion, an intervention is warranted, the Speaker would bring the matter to the Member's attention in writing and require that the Member retire from the Chamber and remove or replace the offending attire. Many Members feel that this would not only alleviate concerns with respect to what is and what is not native dress or appropriate attire, but will also preserve the Speaker's latitude in determining appropriate attire in accordance with tradition, custom and convention. Furthermore, the committee feels that this approach would preclude public debate on such issues and avoid embarrassment, embarrassing any particular Member.

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Mr. Speaker, that concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures.

Therefore, I move, and seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake that the report of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures be received by the Assembly and adopted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Do we have a quorum? The motion is in order, but we do not have a quorum. Mr. Clerk, would you ring the bell? I recognize quorum. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to go back to Item 7, written questions.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 7, written questions. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Krutko, you have unanimous consent.

REVERT TO ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 37-13(4): Listing of Funding Sources for Mammography Machine

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Written question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. In 1997, the Northwest Territories remains the only jurisdiction which has not yet officially initialled plans for implementing a territory-wide organized screening and mammography program for the early detection of breast cancer. Could the Minister provide comprehensive listing of possible funds from sources within his department or any existing programs that may be used to assist in the purchase of a mammography machine for the Stanton Regional Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER:

Written questions. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Erasmus.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Government Operations has reviewed Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Elections Act and wishes to report that

Bill 23 is now ready for consideration in committee of the whole, as amended and reprinted. Mr. Speaker, I would seek unanimous consent of the House to waive Rule 70(5) and have the bill ordered into committee of the whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 117-13(4): A Report on Progress: A Strategy to 2010

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled, A Report on Progress, Strategy to 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Morin.

Tabled Document 115-13(4): Official Languages Policy and Guidelines Manual

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled, Official Language Policy and Guidelines Manual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents. Mr. Todd.

Tabled Document 116-13(4): Workers' Compensation Board: 1996 Annual Report

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled, Workers' Compensation Board 1996 Annual Report. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Miltenberger.

Tabled Document 118-13(4): Summary of Ardicom Digital Network Meeting

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the summary of the Ardicom Digital Network Meeting held Tuesday, October 14, 1997.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Picco.

Tabled Document 119-13(4): Summary of GNWT Contract Spending 1996-97

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document that gives an analysis of the contract report, as issued by the Government of the Northwest Territories, excluding the boards and agencies of our government.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent of the House to waive Rule 70(5), and have Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Elections Act, ordered into committee of the whole for today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Yellowknife North is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5). Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Erasmus, you have unanimous consent. Bill 23, will be ordered into committee of the whole for today. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 5, Adoption Act, Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Elections Act; Tabled Document 108-13(4); Tabled Document 110-13(4); Tabled Document 113-13(4). With Mr. Steen in the Chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I would like to call the committee to order and for consideration by the committee we have Bill 5, Adoption Act; Bill 23, Tabled Document 108-13(4);

Tabled Document 110-13(4); Tabled Document 113-13(4). I would call Mr. Ootes, Chair of the Ordinary Members' Committee, for some direction.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would move that we consider in the following order: Tabled Document 113-13(4), Government of the NWT Interim Financial Report for the Year Ended March 31, 1997; followed by Tabled Document 110-13(4), Action Plan for Transition to a New Western Territory and following that by Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Elections Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Does the committee agree? Thank you. We will proceed after a 15- minute break. Thank you.

--Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

We will begin with Tabled Document 113-13(4), Government of the NWT Interim Financial Report for the Year Ended March 31, 1997. I will ask the Honourable Mr. Todd, Minister of Finance, if he wishes to speak to the item.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a brief comment I would like to make, if I may. On behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, I would like to commend the... What is this? Right, this is somebody else's. Mr. Chairman, I will have to do what I always do. I would like to commend all Members of the House, committees, people in the Northwest Territories who assisted us in this difficult task in bringing together budgets that met the Deficit Elimination Act that was set before the House in the year 1994/95. I think our anticipated deficit for this year is somewhere around \$12.4 million. This is an allowable deficit in respect to the Deficit Elimination Act. I would like to thank everybody. That is it, Mr. Chairman. I have lost my notes. I am really sorry.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. I would now like to invite Mr. Erasmus, chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, if he would like to make general comments on that report?

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, I would like to commend the government and all Members and standing committees of the Legislature for complying with the provisions of the Deficit Elimination Act. The unaudited financial statements indicate a deficit of \$12.4 million for the fiscal year 1996-97. This is certainly well within the legal requirement of an allowable deficit of \$45 million as prescribed in the Deficit Elimination Act. Again, on behalf of all Members, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of all GNWT employees and NWT residents who endured and who are still enduring the impacts of the budget reduction measures implemented by this Legislature in our efforts to meet our fiscal goals. As Members of this Assembly, we will continue to ensure that this government is fiscally responsible in terms of meeting the requirements of the Deficit Elimination Act, particularly as we approach April 1, 1999, and the creation of two financially viable territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. I would like to now open the floor to general comments on the report. Are there any general comments on the report? Does the committee agree that deliberation of this item is concluded? Agreed? Thank you. We would then move on to the next item on the agenda, which is Bill 23. Agreed? Thank you. I would like to invite the Minister responsible for Bill 23, the Honourable Mr. Ng, to introduce the bill.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present amendments to the Elections Act contained in Bill 23. It is fitting that these amendments are being considered today. As noted, it is the second anniversary of our election to this 13th Assembly. The bill before you today is the result of input from a number of sources. It is normal practice after each general election that the Chief Electoral Officer provide a report to the Legislative Assembly on the conduct of the election. After the general election that led to this 13th Legislative Assembly, the CEO provided a report that made a number of recommendations to improve the election process in the Northwest Territories. The CEOs report entitled, Look into the Future, was tabled on May 3, 1996, and was referred to the Standing Committee on Government Operations for review and comment. The report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations was presented in the House and debated

in committee of the whole. Subsequently, the House adopted recommendations and provided direction to the management and services board and government to prepare amendments to the Elections Act.

Mr. Chairman, the bill before us today provides amendments that permit voting in the office of the returning officer, provide for mail-in voting, clarify the procedures for enquiring into and prosecuting violations of the Act, clarifying the circumstances under which proxy votes may be used, restrict election related spending in the six-month period preceding the commencement of an election campaign, and provide that a tie vote resulting after recount will be resolved by the holding of a new election. Mr. Chairman, the bill also makes technical amendments, standardizing provisions for posting of notices, changing the day on which nominations close, clarifying the offense of voting more than once in an election and providing a number of other minor changes to the Act.

Mr. Chairman, the effect of a number of these amendments will extend opportunities to voters to exercise the right to vote. These amendments will, as indicated, allow voting at the office of the returning officer and for mail-in ballots. These are two new methods not presently offered under the NWT Elections Act. The amendments before committee of the whole today have significantly tightened up the circumstances by which an eligible voter may apply for a proxy certificate.

Mr. Chairman, in addition to the recommendations adopted by the Assembly that required the drafting of amendments, there

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was a recommendation concerning the appointment of a resident CEO for the Northwest Territories. The CEO for Canada, in his report on the election for the 13th Assembly, recommended that firm decisions be reached on a structure for electoral administration for the two new territories, with two electoral offices to be operational by April, 1997.

Mr. Chairman, the Premier on the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and the Legislature wrote to the Privy Council office to effect negotiations for the transfer of the financial resources to run elections in the north. I can advise that the negotiations have gone well and the transfer is in its final stages and will need final approval of the federal and territorial Cabinets. Once this is

concluded, the Legislative Assembly will be in a position to appoint our first resident Chief Electoral Officer.

Mr. Chairman, each electoral event brings new administrative and legal issues to light and serves as a source of new ideas for improvements. The amendments before you today are offered to improve our electoral system in the north and to ensure it continues to meet the highest standards, thus affording electors in the north the ability to exercise their franchise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. I will now invite the Chairman of the Government Operations Committee for general comments on the bill.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Government Operations met on October 14, 15 and 16 to conduct its review of Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Elections Act and agrees with the amendments proposed in the reprinted bill.

Bill 23 proposes to tighten up proxy voting procedures, include provisions for mail-in voting, increase candidate spending limits, standardize the voters list and clarify procedures for initiating and prosecuting Election Act violations. During its review of the bill, committee members were somewhat disappointed that the provisions for proxy voting were still included and suggested that proxy voting provisions should be removed. Members discussed this at length with the Minister and eventually the bill was amended in committee to provide an elector may apply for a proxy certificate only if they believe they will be out of the electoral district on polling day. That they will be more than 50 kilometres from the office of the returning officer for that particular electoral district.

Committee members also discussed the use of mail-in ballots. The committee outlined the need for a requirement for the prompt mail-out of ballots once the writ for election is released. This will allow ample time for students or residents temporarily outside their electoral districts to send in their votes.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes the committee's comments and our review of Bill 23. We appreciate the Ministers concurrence by accepting amendments proposed by the committee. Any further concerns or questions that Members may have will be addressed

by them as we review the bill in committee of the whole. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. I now invite the Minister, Mr. Ng, to have witnesses present.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Does the committee agree? Thank you. I would like to have Mr. Ng introduce the witnesses please.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left David Hamilton, Clerk of the Assembly. To my right Mark Aitken, director of legislation, Department of Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, and welcome to the committee. The floor is now open for general comments from Members. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been involved in the last couple of days, reviewing this legislation. As I indicated in the House, a number of days ago, I was going to be very vigilant and carefully scrutinize this legislation to make sure it addressed the concerns that I had experienced as a result of the last election in Thebacha. I am pleased to say that I think this is a very good piece of legislation, overdue, but a good piece. I think the many months of hard work of pulling this together should be commended. In an ideal situation, my opinion is of course that proxies are not necessary. However, I think what is in this legislation is a good compromise that the case was made by Members in other constituencies justifying the need for proxies and though everyone recognized the need to tighten it up which has been done. As well it is very important that we clarify the authorities in the Election Act in who is in charge, who resolves disputes, and who responds to complaints so that we will never have the confusion of the RCMP tripping over the CEO who is tripping over himself. So that issue as well has been dealt with and I think in an effective way. Above all we are finally going to have northern control over northern elections. I think that is an

important step. It is not actually part of this legislation, but it is tied to this legislation. I am very happy that this bill is coming forward before we prorogue this session. I think it is a good step for the north and I will be fully supporting this bill. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Any further general comments or questions on the bill? If no further comments are we prepared to go clause by clause?

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Agreed? Thank you. Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Elections Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 1, clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. On page two, clause 7 of Bill 23.
Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 8. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 9. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 10. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 11 of Bill 23 on page three.
Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 12. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 13 on page 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 14 on page 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 15. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 16 on page 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 17. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 18. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 19. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 20. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 21 on page seven. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 22. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 23. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 24. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 25. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 26. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 27. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 28 on page 9. Agreed?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 29. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 30. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 31. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 32. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 33 on page 10. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 34. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 35. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 36. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 37 on page 11. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 38. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 39 on page 12. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 40. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 41. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 42. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 43. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 44 on page 13. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 45. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 46. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 47. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 48. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 49 on page 14. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 50. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 51. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 23 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Bill 23 is now ready for third reading. I thank the witnesses and the Minister. We will move on now to the next item on the agenda. Perhaps Mr. Ootes wishes to remind me what that was?

MR. OOTES:

Tabled Document 110-13(4), Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. For the benefit of the Members, 110-13(4) Action Plan for Transition to a New Western Territory, the floor is open for general comments. Are there any general comments? We have no general comments on the item. Do the Members wish to move on to the next item on the agenda? Agreed? Mr. Ootes.

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MR. OOTES:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that concludes the items on the agenda for today and therefore I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Steen.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 113-13(4), Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Elections Act and Tabled Document 110-13(4) and would like to report progress. Tabled Document 113-13(4) is concluded and Bill 23 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Kitikmeot has seconded the motion. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. Ms. Thompson.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 20: An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and happy bosses day to you. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh that Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation 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 20 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Morin.

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu that Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1997-98, 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 25 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Elections Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Kitikmeot is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 23. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Ng, you have consent.

Bill 23: An Act to Amend the Elections Act

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe that Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Elections Act, be read for the third time. Thank you.

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 23 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 4, returns to oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Sahtu is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 4, returns to oral questions. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Kakfwi, you have unanimous consent.

REVERT TO ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return to Oral Question 592-13(4): Calculation of Gold Royalties

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Henry on the 6th of October. It is in regard to calculation of gold royalties.

Royalties on all minerals produced from the Northwest Territories are based on sales revenues less allowable deductions. In the case of gold, a company is required to provide monthly production reports to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. These reports form the basis for a check on sales.

The company will sell gold in the form of dore, a very pure gold brick. A sample, called a button, is taken by the company and independently checked for purity. The gold brick is almost always shipped to the Canadian Mint. Although the Mint may be a purchaser, they are often just a storage facility for the gold. While at the Mint, the gold may be bought and sold several times without physically moving.

A company will sell gold at either the spot price (market price that day) or an agreed upon fixed price to a particular purchaser (forward selling). These revenues, less allowable deductions, are reported to DIAND and used to calculate royalties. DIAND may audit the sales reports, review production reports, market prices and forward sales contracts to ensure royalties are recovered. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if Her Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to enter the Chamber and assent to the bills and prorogue the Fourth Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly.

COMMISSIONER MAKSAGAK:

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills:

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Bill 3, Family Law Act; Bill 4, Children's Law Act; Bill 6, Child and Family Services Act; Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act; Bill 19, Municipal Statutes Amending Act No. 2; Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation

Act; Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Companies Act; Bill 22, An Act to Amend the Corrections Act; Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Elections Act; and Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2, 1997-98.

The Fourth Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly commenced on November 27, 1996, almost a year ago. It has been a long session and much has been accomplished. Even though many challenges remain, I urge all Members to take some time to reflect with pride on their achievements to date. Prior to proroguing this session, I wish to announce that the Fifth Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly will convene Tuesday, October 21, 1997 at 1:30 p.m. As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby prorogue the Fourth Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly.

--PROROGATION