



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**5th Session**

**Day 1**

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

**HANSARD**

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

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

Canon James Muckpah would you lead us in prayer.

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

You, the one and only blessed Lord God, the creator of all good things. We pray that you guide the Legislators of Canada, the Northwest Territories and in Yellowknife for the benefit of all people and guide them Oh Lord as you please. For your glory, bless the people and Christians everywhere. We pray for the good of our people of the Northwest Territories. In Jesus' and our Saviour's name. Amen.

May the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever more. Amen.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Canon Muckpah. Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if Her Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is prepared to enter the Chamber and give the opening address.

--O Canada

**ITEM 2: OPENING ADDRESS**

Commissioner's Opening Address

**COMMISSIONER MAKSAGAK:**

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly. It is my pleasure today to open the Fifth Session of the 13th Assembly of the Northwest Territories. I am honoured to serve as the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories during this time of historic

change, and equally honoured to work with the Members of this Assembly.

Building on the success of those who came before you, as a Legislative Assembly you have accomplished a great deal in two years. You started by stating your vision for the north for two financially secure and viable new territories, with more control over their economic future and with a healthier population and better quality of life. In establishing that vision, you have focused a bright light on Canada's north; light that will ensure a safe, healthy and prosperous future for our children.

To help fulfil your vision, during the Fifth Session you will be considering a number of investments aimed at improving the opportunities and the lives of northerners. First, you will be investing in the economy, because creating economic opportunities and helping people lead productive lives is the key to affecting our overall quality of life. Second, you will be investing in quality care and good health and in building healthier and safer communities for our citizens because these are the things that serve as the true fabric to our society. Third, you will be investing in the development of all Northerners building their skills and knowledge to deal with the challenges of the new millennium.

As part of that, you will be investing in children and investing in creating opportunities for youth, for they are truly the future of the north and the future of Canada.

Finally, you will be investing in a dream of two successful and prosperous territories that are a viable and self-sufficient part of the Canadian landscape.

**Responsibility and Accountability**

To complement the vision you set for the north, 18 months ago, Members of this Assembly agreed to an Agenda for Change -- a series of strategies aimed at increasing decision-making at the community level, improving government efficiency and addressing the health, education, human resources and economic development priorities. In setting out this agenda, you have set a standard for responsible and effective government in the north. The steps you have taken to date in fulfilling it have proven you are accountable.

There is no better way to be accountable to your citizens than to show strong fiscal management responsibility. You have balanced the territorial budget and making more efficient use of limited

dollars to ensure you receive the highest return on your investment. Managing the deficit, securing the financial future of the north, and in general, becoming responsible have been key goals of this Assembly.

With that accomplished, you can now focus your efforts on three related priorities within your agenda: 1) improving social conditions; 2) improving economic conditions; and 3) working towards the successful creation of two new territories. Strong fiscal management and accountable government are the corner stones for a stable political environment. A stable political environment fuels a healthy economy. Social conditions are related to economic conditions, or more specifically, people's ability to work and to be self-sufficient. Therefore, by affecting change in one area, you can influence and make a difference in all of the others.

#### Investing in Our Economy

With a balanced budget in place, a strong next step for affecting change is to continue and enhance efforts to secure the financial future of the north. A strong economy leads to higher employment that is important for northerners because it enhances self-reliance and productive involvement. At

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present, there are not enough jobs for all Northerners who want them. As well, the skills of the northern workforce do not yet match those required by employers. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, you have worked to address this situation in a number of ways.

You have built an economic framework which identifies the best places for government to invest and participate in the economy. You have developed a \$32 million Northern Employment Strategy which supports the development of community-based business. You have established programs to assist youth in transition between school and work and you have initiated regulatory reform to streamline processes and simplify the environment within which businesses are created and operated in the Northwest Territories.

The government has also established a Labour Force Development Plan and related training to prepare northerners for opportunities that exist now, and that will exist in the future. This Legislative Assembly has also made a strong commitment to creating a public service which is representative of the communities it

serves. Building on that commitment, we must continue to participate in initiatives such as the Inuit Employment Plan, the Nunavut Unified Human Resources Development Strategy, developing training plans for the new western government and affirmative action initiatives.

The north is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. Our wildlife, fish and forest have provided sustenance for our people in the past. As we move forward, these things can now play an important role in wage employment. Our renewable resources offer export opportunities and jobs can be created by processing and adding value to these resources. The natural beauty of our land also offers potential for further development of tourism. We must continue to encourage and support northern artisans and crafts people in the development and export of their work.

On the resource side, the north also harbours vast oil and gas, gold, diamonds, zinc and other mineral reserves. Development of these resources offers enormous business and employment opportunities. Almost one billion dollars will be invested in the BHP Diamond Mine, which will begin production within the next year. Other diamond development may soon follow as there are promising finds in the Keewatin and Kitikmeot regions. There is also renewed activity in oil and gas exploration in the Liard and Mackenzie Valleys.

Overall, we must work to bridge the gap between the new sustainable jobs that these development will create and the people who need them the most. We must ensure that northerners and northern businesses can take advantage of every opportunity. We must be prepared to invest in training, employment support, business start-up and expansion programs and in increasing community capacity. The north is really a bright spot in the future of Canada. Under the leadership of the Assembly, it is within our reach to harvest the wealth of resources on the land, under the ground and in the sea. To do so, you must continue to make very effort toward creating a strong investment environment and expand opportunities for the people of the north.

#### Investing in Our Communities and Our Children

The best measure for our social and economic success is in the quality of life and opportunities for children and youth, and how well we build the foundation for the future. We must remember that it is our children and our youth who will be living in our communities far into the future. For their sake, it is

essential that we invest in the education, health and safety of our communities so that they can develop to their greatest potential, and so they can have the future you have set forth in your vision. Playing an active role in territorial and national actions such as the Healthy Children's Initiative, the development of a National Children's Agenda, the National Child Benefit Program and health and social reform are a good start.

As part of your Agenda for Change, you have made a commitment to move more decision-making powers to communities. This is part of a fundamental belief that the people most directly affected by, and closest to the need, are in the best position to make the best decisions. It means much more responsibility for community leaders, but it also means making sure the decisions reflect the needs of the community, and that there is flexibility to ensure that services and funds are being invested where they are most needed. To be successful, it is vital the Legislative Assembly and the government work closely with communities to identify and develop the skills communities, organizations, businesses and individuals need to manage and deliver the program at the local level.

We also need to strengthen our relationships with our aboriginal communities and organizations. Thousands of years ago, aboriginal people began building Canada's first communities, and today, by recognizing and celebrating the diversity that exists in the north, we can build a better future. By creating and nurturing a spirit of partnership at all levels, we can ensure our foundation for the future will stand on solid ground.

#### Valuing Our Citizens

As we invest in our children, our communities and our people, it is important to take the time to recognize the efforts of individuals who are helping to make a difference. I am pleased today to honour five such people who through some special act or who through their commitment to excellence and public service have made a significant impact on the lives of northerners. Please join me in congratulating the recipients of this year's Commissioner's Awards:

Ms. Alayna Krutko of Fort Providence and Mr. Levi Palituq of Pond Inlet, who have been awarded the Commissioner's Award for Bravery at the highest level; the Honourable Justice M. M. de Weerd of Vancouver, British Columbia, who has been awarded the Commissioner's Award for Public Service at the highest level; Ms. Mary Teya of Fort McPherson, who has been awarded the Commissioner's Award for

Public Service at the second level and nine-year-old Bennan Debassige of Yellowknife, who has been awarded the Commissioner's Award for Bravery at the second level.

It will be my honour over the next few weeks to present each of these individuals with their awards.

#### Investing in Our Future

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Collaboration and partnership is also the key to the political future of the north. It is a fact that in 1999 we will have two new territories. This Legislative Assembly is part of history in that you will be the last Members to meet collectively to represent the people in both the eastern and western Arctic. You are also an important part of history in that you have the unique challenge of preparing for the creation and transition to two new governments.

Along with the federal government, you have pledged to do this with minimal or no disruption of service and with fairness and equity to all of our citizens. To accomplish this, we must continue to work with our federal partners in this process to secure appropriate financial arrangement for two new governments and to work with all of the other key parties to work out new government structures that support these principles.

We will continue to work with the Interim Commissioner's Office in Nunavut and support the development of the Nunavut government, and we will support political development in the Western Territory by continuing involvement in self-government negotiations and constitutional development.

Another key component will be to continue work on the details to ensure a smooth and successful transition. As part of that, among the legislation, Members will be reviewing during this session will be two acts relating to the creation of two new territories. The Power Corporation Act will enable the existing Northwest Territories Power Corporation to incorporate under the Canada Business Corporations Act and remain as a single corporation serving the two jurisdiction of Nunavut and the Western Territory. The Public Utilities Act Amendment will enable a joint regulatory scheme of a single power corporation by Nunavut and the Western Territory.

Each day brings us one step closer to April 1, 1999. There is much work to be done. But working

together, we can ensure that the transition will be a time of celebration for all of the people of the north and all of the people in Canada.

In general, we must continue to think broadly and strategically about the needs of northerners not just in the next few years, but into the new millennium. While our focus should remain on creating political stability and improving economic and social conditions in the north, we must also fulfil our responsibilities at the national level. We are an important part of Canada today, and more importantly, will play a key role in its future.

Over the next few weeks and months, Canadian citizens will have the opportunity to get involved in a debate on national unity. In the north, we will be focusing those discussions within our communities through the month of November, leading up to a special sitting of this Assembly in early December. To truly show we are a vital part of Canada, and that we are serious about wanting to work with the rest of Canada, every individual must take the time to share their thoughts on Canada as a nation. This is an important issue for each of us as Canadians, and as northerners. It is our opportunity to let our distinct and unique perspective be heard. We live in and represent one-third of the land mass of Canada. We are influenced by what happens in the rest of Canada; and therefore, we deserve the same right as every other Canadian citizen to be heard at the national level.

#### Investing in Partnerships

There are many things the people of the Northwest Territories can and are doing as a government and in communities to resolve the issues facing the north. However, in order to be successful, we must continually draw our efforts together in working with our citizens at the individual, family and community level. We must also work more closely with the groups and organizations that serve our people politically, economically and socially at other levels.

The federal government is on record stating that governing in the 21st century means recognizing no government can act alone. Given the complexity of issues we all face, collaboration is an essential ingredient for the success of Canada. More than ever, our people want government to work together in partnership. Therefore, to be successful, collectively, we must face and address the root causes of our many social and economic challenges, and

collectively, we must develop made-in-the-north solutions.

Just as the history of Canada is built on partnerships and cooperation, we must continue to seek and create partnership and support in order to take the steps we need to secure the future for two new territories in Canada. To date, working in conjunction and in partnership with aboriginal organizations, community councils, community groups, the private sector and individuals, we have achieved varying levels of success and are indeed making great strides in some of the key social and economic areas. But many challenges remain. We need to reaffirm those partnerships, and forge stronger and better ones for the future. For it is through government and public partnerships that we can provide economic and employment opportunities for our people and hence, provide individuals and communities opportunities for development and self-sufficiency.

#### Leading the Way

There is no question the challenges we face are great. But as Members of this Legislative Assembly, you have proven you have the commitment, ability and willingness to tackle any challenges head on, and at the same time remain responsible and accountable to the people you serve. You have come a long way in a short period of time. You have made some hard and difficult decisions, and you have shown true leadership. More importantly, you recognize the key to maintaining your vision is in finding the balance between meeting the needs of today, while striving for an ideal of well being and quality of life for the generation that will follow.

It is not easy to find certainty in these uncertain times. However, based on the work you have accomplished to date and the manner in which you are facing the challenges that lie ahead, I believe you can and will fulfil your vision. In doing so, I encourage you to continue to work together to fulfil the spirit and intent of consensus government. By working together, by respecting and valuing our diversity, we can and will secure two strong new territories with strong economic ties, healthy communities and a legacy of help for our children and youth.

As Commissioner, and on behalf of all citizens of the Northwest Territories, I would like to thank and commend all Members for your hard work and positive efforts over the past two years and encourage your continuing good judgement in

the weeks and months ahead. I now declare open the Fifth Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

--Applause

**HON. SAMUEL GARGAN:**

Good afternoon. (Translation) Today we are starting the Fifth Session of the 13th Assembly. I would like to thank Canon James Muckpah of Arviat for his opening prayer and blessing of this Assembly. Our thanks are also extended to Mr. O'Brien, the Member for Kivallivik, for bringing Canon Muckpah to the opening of the Fifth Session. (Translation ends) I would also like to express my appreciation to Her Honour, the Commissioner for her address today and we look forward to joining her for a reception in the Great Hall later this afternoon.

I am sure Members will also join me in welcoming back the MLA for Amittuq, Mr. Evaloarjuk.

--Applause

Let us wish him a continuing speedy recovery from his leg surgery that prevented him from joining us at the closing of the Fourth Session. Orders of the day. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ng.

**ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

Minister's Statement 1-13(5): FAS/FAE Video Launch

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I along with many of my honourable colleagues have just had the honour of participating, in the Great Hall of the Assembly, in the launch of a video about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects. This video is an exciting example of how a community group's vision, in partnership with government, can result in a product that will be a lasting resource to families, care givers and to communities.

As we are all aware, alcohol has had a profound effect on the people of the Northwest Territories. Among the most tragic results of alcohol misuse are children born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects. These children require special care and attention. Their families need support to raise them.

The Yellowknife Association for Community Living is one of the northern organizations that has been working to help children with FAS and FAE and their families.

The Association recently completed a 28-minute video entitled Helping Families - Helping Children. Funding was provided by the federal government and the video was produced by a northern company. The Department of Health and Social Services is providing funding to translate the video into aboriginal languages.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Yellowknife Association for Community Living on the work they have done. The Department of Health and Social Services is proud to be associated with this exciting project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Minister's Statement 2-13(5): Introduction of Long Distance Competition in the NorthwTel Operating Area

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year the CRTC began a review of whether or not long-distance competition should be introduced in the north. The process leading up to this decision has included a great deal of consultation and there is still an opportunity to provide input until October 31st.

Telecommunications play a vital role in northern society and in the northern economy. I believe telecommunications reduces isolation between our remote communities, connects us to the world and can provide a vital lifeline to services such as health, education and policing. The same factors that make telecommunications so critical, like remoteness and the harsh climate, also result in high costs, almost double the cost in southern Canada. It is vital that long distance communications costs do not defeat our ability to compete globally and that basic telephone services are available at reasonable cost to all residents.

NorthwTel's network today extends across the north and customers now have the lowest rates for local services in Canada. However, we also have the highest long distance rates in the country because our

local rates are being heavily subsidized by long distance revenues. This subsidy to achieve low local rates is not likely to continue. NorthwesTel has stated that, with or without competition, they intend to rebalance their rates. This means they will increase the price for local services and reduce long distance charges. The Government of the Northwest Territories recommends to the CRTC that local rate changes be limited to an increase of \$4 per month in August, 1998, and another \$6 per month in August, 1999, with equal reductions being made to their long distance rates.

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The Government of the Northwest Territories position paper also requests that the CRTC recognize the urgent need to develop new mechanisms or subsidies, funded on a nation-wide basis, to support the high cost of telecommunications services to remote communities in the north and in other parts of Canada. In southern Canada, long distance competition has resulted in significant price reductions, service packages tailored to individual customer needs and suppliers are more responsive than ever. Our position paper to the CRTC recommends that northerners can also benefit from long-distance competition. In short, we feel that:

The CRTC should immediately allow certain aspects of competition, specifically allowing competitors to purchase and then resell NorthwesTel switched long distance services. Full competition will require changes to NorthwesTel's network, and we recommend this be in place no later than September, 1999.

Any company who decides to compete with NorthwesTel for northern dollars should have certain obligations. For example, competitors should contribute to NorthwesTel's competition start-up, such as network modifications to allow competition.

Some amount of subsidization of local services by long distance revenues will still be necessary, and competitors should match NorthwesTel's level of subsidization.

Quality of service should be vigorously maintained.

Lastly, we feel that any new competitors should be encouraged to invest in capital and jobs in the north.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Ministers' statements. Item 4, Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 1-13(5): Post Division Impact of Current GNWT Actions

#### **MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during my two years in this House I have attempted to bring common sense in a business perspective to various issues and initiatives. For example, initiatives such as the proposed amalgamation of Housing, Public Works and Transportation. Just because we looked at it, considered it and spent a bunch of effort on it does not mean that we had to proceed with it, and we did not, Footprints clearly presented a different direction and we abandoned the plan.

Then there was the long and protracted debate over the privatization of petroleum products division. How much time, energy and money have we expended on an initiative, the rationale for which is weak at best given timing and feasibility considerations which I have previously expounded on in this House. We have had to make some profound changes to the way in which we do government. Most of these changes were related to the elimination of the deficit prior to April 1, 1999. The elimination of the deficit was necessary to facilitate the smooth, orderly and business like division of assets and liabilities giving each new territory the best financial footing possible as they embark on creating their own new governments.

My colleague from Nunakput raised the ire of some Members in this House recently when he, in reference to the Transition Action Plan for the Creation of Two New Territories, brought up the issue of who is actually planning Nunavut. Is this lifelong dream of an Arctic people, driven by the desire for self-determination which is going to be mapped out by the Government of Nunavut or the Government of the Northwest Territories? The subtle reality is that the extent of this self-determination, by either new government will be seriously impacted by the amount of baggage they are saddled with at division. Baggage in the form of long-range commitments, contracts, initiatives, decided by the 13th Assembly prior to April 1, 1999. Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act which was proposed in committee last week is another example of a very profound change to the way in which this government

operates, which could have far reaching ramifications in terms of long-range financial commitments.

The bill proposed the cap on loans guaranteed by this government be raised from \$500,000 to anything less than the approximate \$170 million which represents the gap between our present outstanding guarantees and the legislated \$400 million. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The Member for Hay River is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mrs. Groenewegen, you have unanimous consent. I would ask the Member to slow down. There are interpreters that cannot keep up with you. Thank you. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I am completely in favour of creative ways of financing capital projects which ridings are looking for, whether it be roads, schools or hospitals. There is an element of accountability missing when these arrangements can be made by the financial management board without being exposed to the public scrutiny of this House. Frankly, this proposal makes me nervous given that there are only 518 days to division. I am not suggesting this government should come to a grinding halt or we should not be visionary until after division. The reality is that east and west are coming to a parting of the ways; a dividing of property and a dividing of outstanding liabilities. If you knew you were getting divorced next month, I doubt you would be out shopping for a house today. Does the risk of imposing long-range commitments on either new government outweigh the benefits of such a significant change?

Another example of a proposed far reaching commitment is the intention announced in the House last week by the Minister for Public Works and Services, the Honourable Goo Arlooktoo to go to RFP next month for the private sector construction of fuel delivery pipelines, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Arviat and Rankin Inlet and I quote, "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 Nunavut government." This is a multi-million dollar purchase of infrastructure which this government is

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going to purchase now on behalf of Nunavut. I would like to ask, what is the rush? If this is such a good idea, it will still be a good idea in 1999. I am sure the extension of existing contracts for one year could be readily negotiated.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the short time between now and April 1, 1999, I suggest that we very cautiously consider the deferral of further fundamental sweeping changes to the policies of this government which could potentially, significantly impact the plans, priorities, autonomy, direction and self-determination of either of the two new territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 2-13(5): Fort Smith Municipal Election Results

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Mr. Speaker, yesterday there were municipal elections held at Fort Smith. Fort Smith has a new mayor. Mayor elect Martselos is a long time resident and friend, and he is a very passionate advocate for the community. He is a hard-working businessman with extensive municipal experience. He and I served on council together about 12 years ago when I did my stint in the municipal trenches. He is also, coincidentally, a good liberal. I look forward to working with Mayor elect Martselos and expect that he will carry on the tradition of cooperation brought forward by the current mayor.

Speaking of the outgoing mayor, I would just like to publicly acknowledge the work of Mayor Bevington. He is the longest serving mayor in the Northwest Territories, having finished nine years. He has decided to move on to other challenges, but he is leaving the community in good shape both physically and fiscally. The outgoing mayor has been the president of the NWTAM and has been on the executive for the Canadian Federation of Municipalities. He has been on the Northern River Basin Study from start to finish. He was the driving force in the construction of the rec centre, which was a contribution to the town. He is also actively involved in alternate energy endeavours.

Mr. Speaker, the outgoing mayor leaves a fine legacy for the community and has been a fine ambassador



for the town. Coincidentally, the outgoing mayor has been a staunch NDPer throughout, but that has never been held against him.

Mr. Speaker, the outgoing mayor is my friend and next door neighbour and as he leaves the municipal stage, I wish him nothing but happy trails. Thank you, very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 3-13(5): Keewatin Resupply

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to refer to the statement made by Minister Goo Arlooktoo regarding the request for proposals for the Keewatin resupply. Mr. Speaker, I have some serious reservations regarding the Minister's statement as it relates to the Keewatin resupply committee's report, the committee that I chair, although, I do acknowledge the support the Minister gives to the committee for all their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Public Works and Services is going to reference this report, he should do so in its entirety and not just single out one recommendation. Mr. Speaker, the committee's report stated the following: that the status quo would remain until 1999, regarding the resupply method, that we would work toward direct resupply. There will be full consultation to all the communities, a full environmental study would be completed and a cost benefit analysis. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, that there would be a moratorium placed on privatization of POL, if the direct resupply method were to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, there is fear and great concern with the manner in which this project is moving forward. For example, a surveyor showed up in Arviat, conducted some surveys, then responded back to the hamlet staff with the proposed new route. This route travels directly across a main char harvesting area and recreational area. This is not acceptable. Mr. Speaker, the hunters and trappers nor the full hamlet council were properly consulted regarding this issue and are quite concerned about the manner in which this project is being moved forward.

Mr. Speaker, we see a situation where either poor consultation or no consultation is taking place regarding issues that effect the Keewatin people. The people of Arviat, the Hamlet of Arviat, Baker Lake and

the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce are rejecting this proposal at this time for obvious reasons. This proposal should not move forward until the results of the hydrographic mapping are analyzed and a full report presented to all affected parties. Also, that a full environmental risk analysis be conducted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 4-13(5): Fatal Accidents Act

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue of some importance to every northerner. I refer to the impact of Fatal Accidents Act on parents who suffer the loss of a child. I am sure we all agree that there is nothing more devastating than the loss of a child. Mr. Speaker, we all know that we lose too many children to water trucks, snowmobiles, ATVs and other vehicle accidents in the Northwest Territories. Recently, the Supreme Court ruled that the mother could not be compensated financially for her son's death because he did not contribute to her economic well-being. The legislation did not permit compensation for the grief and suffering of the parents. This decision, Mr. Speaker, exposes a flaw in the current Act and provides evidence this is not in tune with northern culture or practices.

This decision and this law reflect the European idea that only an adult is the bread winner for the family. Aboriginal culture puts more value on the child and this legislation fails to reflect the importance of the child in aboriginal communities, where children secure our future. It is not only our children's parents, brothers or sisters who may rely on the child. Later in life elders are clearly dependent on the children, not only to provide the necessities, but as to carriers of their culture. This legislation must be amended to include provisions to allow parents to make claims for nonpecuniary losses of care, guidance, companionship and other losses.

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This amendment will not be the first of its kind in Canada. It is reflected in other jurisdictions such as Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba in making similar amendments giving greater importance to the children in our culture. I believe that

the north must have higher maximum of damages given the unfairness of this law. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask that any such amendments to the legislation be retroactive to January 1, 1994. Mr. Speaker, the challenge to amend the Fatal Accidents Act has been clearly made by the Supreme Court in the Stokes' decision. I am hopeful that the legislative drafters will rise to the challenge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 5-13(5): Employment Strategies

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been two years of making and being involved in making unpopular decisions. We have witnessed and experienced many changes. We have heard terms like, downloading, unloading and downsizing. Mr. Speaker, all our communities have felt the pain of government restructuring. They have taken on more responsibility in a time when it was not popular. All this is and was done for the benefit of the future of the north as we know it, for those young and old and for those yet to be born. Mr. Speaker, it is important for us to manage this government in a fiscally prudent way. It is also important to plan and prepare for the future, not just a fiscal plan, but an employment plan is also required. This government needs a long-term vision. A vision that would see us putting people to work, not just planning but implementation. Mr. Speaker, we say we are here for the people. The people say, they want work. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 6-13(5): Pauktuutit FAS/FAE Workshop

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I am wearing a ribbon to promote awareness of FAS/FAE. Pauktuutit, the national Inuit women's organization, during the week of October 7 to 9, held a very important workshop on the subject in Iqaluit. This workshop, which had been in planning for over a year, consisted of representation from each of the six Inuit regions. The participants included daycare workers, community health representatives, addictions workers, FAS/FAE birth and foster parents, policy makers, RCMP and local community people.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the workshop was to bring together people from a wide variety of professional and personal backgrounds to discuss the issues, raise awareness and see what can be done to cope and prevent it.

What is fetal alcohol syndrome? When a woman drinks alcohol during pregnancy, it can damage the unborn baby. FAS/FAE is the name given to the condition caused in the fetus. It can be characterized by physical, mental, social and behavioural disabilities. When drinking alcohol, the alcohol passes directly into the baby's bloodstream. It damages the growing cells of the baby's body and brain.

Mr. Speaker, we often speak about community wellness. The FAS/FAE workshop sponsored by Pauktuutit has put into action the verbiage so often heard that awareness and prevention is one of the corner stones of community wellness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 7-13(5): FAS/FAE Video Launch

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we witnessed the very interesting and moving video regarding FAS/FAE. This video told the ways and means to help our children with these disorders and the frustrations that can be experienced by their children and parents trying to cope with day-to-day living. This video entitled, Helping Families, Helping Children is a 28-

minute production that was made in the north by northerners for northern families, organizations interested people to use as a resource to assist people who are working or living with the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Fetal Alcohol Affects residents. Most, if not all stars that were in this video, were northerners telling their stories. It is a very good production that the Yellowknife Association for Community Living has provided. I would like to congratulate these organizations and the Department of Health and Social Services for the excellent work they have done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 8-13(5): Clyde River Bowhead Whale Tourism Initiatives

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The community of Clyde River is excited about the possibility of having tourists come to see the bowhead whales. Every August, these whales migrate through Isabella Bay which is south of Clyde River. The community and Hunters and Trappers Association see the whales as being an attraction for tourists. They would like to set up tours to see the whales when they come through here. Tourists can view and take pictures of the bowhead whales and other wildlife. The beautiful community of Clyde River can provide guides for the tourists. The visitors can

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travel by land and boat. They can enjoy Inuit culture and the lovely scenery. Clyde River hopes to form a designate Inuit organization that will pursue this tourist trade. The community will provide experienced Inuit guides. The visitors will get to see the midnight sun, the bowhead whales and experience Inuit culture. I support the community in this venture. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 9-13(5): Issues from the Yellowknife MLA's Constituency Meeting

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Thursday night, I and my colleagues, Mr. Henry and Mr. Erasmus, held a constituency meeting. We had a good turnout and it was obvious many people are concerned with issues that require our attention. There was certainly no shortage of concerns. Concerns were raised on the western constitutional process, the diamond valuating and sorting facility, the increase in cost to the public when government privatizes services like vehicle licensing and the need for a northern trauma centre. Questions about why every government directive and regulation that Cabinet deals with seems to have a notwithstanding clause. The student financial assistance program, the victims of crime fund, the need for a consistent policy to remunerate those provide who services as faith healers and funding needs of the North Slave Metis Alliance. All the issues and questions raised are certainly very important and significant but in the interest of time, I will speak only about several here.

Of major concern to some of those present was the state of the local economy and the need to create jobs. For Metis leaders like Bill Enge, Sholto Douglas and Clem Paul of the North Slave Metis Alliance, like many other local leaders and citizens, the location of the diamond valuation and sorting facility in Yellowknife is an important issue. The Metis leaders stressed that the benefits of diamond mining must stay in the north. They urged the Yellowknife MLAs to take a collective supportive position to ensure this facility is operated in our community.

The need for a trauma recovery centre for survivors of sexual abuse was recommended. Trauma cases are now sent to Homewood Facility in Guelph, Ontario at an astronomical expense to this government. Because of the cost and distance, the number of individuals who can participate in that program is restricted. The suggestion was made that a facility here in the north would be more productive. We spend a lot of money, as a government, treating substance abuse but very little on the underlying causes of the abuse, like emotional trauma. The suggestion made by our constituents for a trauma centre deserves our consideration.

A constituent raised an interesting point about the government's privatization program which is costing the government more money now than when the government was providing the service. Mr. Speaker, I note the time is running out on me and I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. As I mentioned, a constituent raised the point about the government's privatization program which is costing the public more money now than when the government was providing the service. For example, a driver's licence which once cost \$60 now cost \$60 plus \$8 service charge and GST on top of the \$8. Privatization was supposed to benefit the public as well as the government. That is not happening. The government is still receiving the same \$60 without having to pay for the employees, office space and related overhead costs. The Government of the Northwest Territories should reduce this fee to the appropriate level they charged before privatization. In addition, this government has committed to not raise taxes, but the privatization of motor vehicle licences has resulted indirectly for the public to pay taxes on a service fee.

Another item, the Task Force Financial Assistance has prepared a report on its public consultation program conducted this summer. Like my constituents, I am interested in receiving the results and hearing what action the government will take concerning the public's recommendations.

As I said in my opening remarks, there were other issues constituents raised and I will follow those up directly with the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 10-13(5): Retirement of Jan Stirling

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker about 250 people gathered in the Explorer Hotel last Saturday evening, an occasion to help celebrate the retirement of Jan Stirling. Jan is a respected pioneer in health care delivery in the north for almost three decades. She is extremely well respected in that field. All segments of the community of Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories were involved. Mr. Ng, the Minister of Health and Social Services brought

remarks on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Mayor on behalf of the city of Yellowknife. Jan's family also made remarks and I had the honour of being asked to make a comment also. Jan's working colleagues are to be congratulated on the great evening they put on which spoke so well to their love and admiration for Jan as a colleague. I would like to call on all Members of this House to show their appreciation for a long-term government employee for services rendered over and above the call of duty. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Member's statements. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ng.

**ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to recognize several members of the Yellowknife Association for Community Living with us today, Liz Wyman the past president; Heather Potter, board member and Lanny Cooke, executive director. We also have individuals that

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appeared in the video, Helping Families, Helping Children and those individuals are Bob, Mary and Bridget Richardson and Julie Harrison. I would also like to recognize some constituents from Kugluktuk, the mayor Stanley Anablak and former member of this House, Ernie Bernhardt who is accompanied by his wife, Beatrice Bernhardt.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two people in the gallery. I would like to recognize first, Mr. Roy Desjarlais, a 30-year resident of the north and chairperson of the steering committee responsible for Team Northwest Territories involvement in the North American indigenous games

held this past summer in Victoria, BC. Another person I would like to recognize is Mr. Doug Rentmeister, who was our team manager at the Canada Summer Games hosted in Brandon, Manitoba. Doug was responsible for managing Team Northwest Territories involvement at these games and they are sitting beside Daniel Autut, who is originally from Chesterfield Inlet.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Ms. Jackie Simpson today, who is the president of the Union of Northern Workers. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to recognize Mr. Ron Williams who is the vice-chair of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation board of directors and beside him is Mr. Gord Stewart who is also a director with the Northwest Territories Power Corporation and Bill Braden who is the director for corporate development with the Power Corporation. As well, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the commander of northern area headquarters, Colonel Pierre Leblanc.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize some special guests in the gallery today. Ruth Mould is a long time Yellowknifer and she and her late husband Ben were known to many here in Yellowknife during the 1970s and 1980s for their

heavy involvement in community activities. Ben was the city's building inspector during those major growth years of Yellowknife and after a period of time of living in Alberta, Ruth has moved back to Yellowknife and has moved into the Aven Senior Centre. Ruth has spent most of her life as an active behind the scenes player in politics at all levels. So it is my special pleasure to welcome her and her stepdaughter, Ann Mould. So Ruth Mould and Ann Mould in the gallery today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to recognize Ms. Pat Thomas, the president of the Northwest Territories Teachers Association.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome Mr. Ben MacDonald from the Union of Northern Workers and an alderman candidate here in Yellowknife. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a constituent of mine in the gallery today, Mr. Barry Bran. Mr. Bran will soon be assuming the duties of the deputy Sergeant-at-Arms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if he is up there or not, but I would like to recognize Reverend James Muckpah from Arviat who did the opening prayer today and took the time to come and be with us. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. We will take a 15-minute break. I would like to invite the people from the gallery as well as the Members for a Commissioner's reception in the Great Hall.

--Break

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I would like to call the house back to order. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 1-13(5): Public Infrastructure Financing

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance and it is in regard to the capital planning process. This Assembly has been forced as part of its deficit reduction program to cut tens of millions out of the capital planning budget, yet we continue to have a list of projects that far exceeds the resources available to complete

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them. We also have an outmoded capital planning process where we insist on trying to pay for all capital projects in one year. It is something we can no longer afford to do. Could the Minister indicate how long he has been planning, or thinking about possible revisions to the capital planning process? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 1-13(5): Public Infrastructure Financing

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While my honourable colleague brought to my attention about a year ago that perhaps we should be considering new ways in which to amortize our capital projects as we have all known, there was going to be some difficulties in balancing the budget. It was clearly going to be a requirement to take some money out of the capital allocation of dollars. In fact, over the last two years we have gone from about \$180 million on an annual basis to somewhere around \$130 million. So, in fact, we have had about \$100 million less capital dollars to build public infrastructure, and that is a significant amount of dollars, Mr. Speaker.

We have been looking for over a year, for some creative, visionary alternatives to ensure that the need for public infrastructure whether it is hospitals, roads or bridges can continue at the level in which we have done in the past. Hence the reason for my desire to conclude a public/private partnership policy and also a need for changes within the Finance Administration Act, that I will be introducing later on today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 1-13(5): Public Infrastructure Financing

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Assembly, this government has two clear commitments that I have known in terms of capital projects, and that is the hospital in Baffin and the hospital in Inuvik. Could the Minister indicate that if we do not change the capital planning process, we will be able as a government, to come up with the kind of money in the tens of millions that it is required to pay in one year for these projects? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 1-13(5): Public Infrastructure Financing

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While the short answer is no, let me repeat again, the reality is that the \$100

million less spending on public infrastructures taking place over the last two years. If that trend continues, we will not be able to meet the minimum demands that have been placed upon us by our constituencies. Hence, the reason why some of us have taken the time to look at what other jurisdictions are doing. It is not like this is some new, foreign idea. The reality is that we are in the same situation as some of the Maritime Provinces are. I think the recent big project was the Prince Edward Island bridge. Schools, correctional facilities, hospitals, most have-not provinces are looking at ways and means in which to continue with the level of public infrastructure which has been demanded by the constituency and finding new ways to amortize the cost. That is really what we are about here and I would suggest to my honourable colleague, we will not be able to continue down this road, of reduced expenditure and meet the kind of demands we have for infrastructure, whether it is, as I said, schools, hospitals, roads, et cetera. That is why we are looking at this creative public/private partnership, and hence, the reason why I need changes as I will be bringing forward today to the Financial Administration Act, to make sure that this government can carry on and meet its obligations, not just this year, but in the coming years and the two new governments. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 1-13(5): Public Infrastructure Financing

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has indicated he is looking at creative and visionary ways to approach the capital planning process. Is it not, in fact, what you are talking about, is just good business sense as in any large business or corporation and, in fact, many governments in this day and age? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 1-13(5): Public Infrastructure Financing

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I would hope so. I think to sit back and suggest we do nothing, to sit back to

suggest that we continue with the status quo, when again I say to you all, \$100 million less in capital spending. The Northwest Territories Construction Association is saying, to my honourable colleagues, the jobs have not been created because we have reduced capital spending, and if I do not cut in capital spending, then I cut in programs. People do not want to cut from programs. If I do not cut from programs, then I cut from wages and benefits. People do not want to cut wages and benefits. So, in the capital side of things, we have to find new creative ways in which to continue with a level of expenditures which we have had historically in this government, and it is somewhere around \$180 to \$200 million on an annual basis. I think that this is a good, sound business way in which to do it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 2-13(5): Environmental Liability Site Inventory

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for FMBS. The Standing Committee for Government Operations requested an inventory of sites with potential environmental liability. In the response to an oral question on October 7th, to me, the Chairman of the Financial Management Board stated that the inventory identified 648 sites. At 624 of these sites an environmental liability exists or may exist.

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Mr. Speaker, this is very serious and disturbing news. Could the Minister inform this House that the 624 sites includes federal, or just solely territorial government liabilities?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 2-13(5): Environmental Liability Site Inventory

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remember the question my honourable colleague posed to me earlier last week. I do not know if they are all territorial sites and have

been identified, that this government is obligated. I would have to, unfortunately, go talk to my staff and try to confirm for my honourable colleague, which ones are federal, which ones are territorial, and perhaps which ones may in fact be joint. I am unable at this time to answer that technical question, but I will endeavour to do so by the end of the week.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 2-13(5): Environmental Liability Site Inventory

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will await that response. Following up on the same area of questioning. The Government of the Northwest Territories, according to the response by the Finance Minister last week, cannot afford to conduct detail assessments of the sites. We feel an inventory is a positive step. Mr. Speaker, from the Government of the Northwest Territories own record, that amount of liability could be between \$6 and \$30 million. Will the Minister commit to placing a contingency amount in a budget to cover off this liability or are we going to get stuck with the same situation we are now, with pay equity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 2-13(5): Environmental Liability Site Inventory

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well as my honourable colleague knows, we are working with our partners in the Union of Northern Workers to reach a negotiated settlement under Pay Equity. I do not see the relevancy. I have indicated to you in the House that it is my desire, assuming the partners and Union of Northern Workers can come to the table that we will try to conclude an agreement by April 1, 1998. I have set some deadlines as to how we are trying to reach an arrangement. I do not see where that is relevant to a much larger issue in relationship to long-term environmental liabilities that have been going on for 20, 30 or 40 years.

I have already said to my colleague, I will try to figure it out, and I will ask my department what degree of

liability does this government have, and what does the federal government have. We recognize it is important and we are trying to, through negotiations, reach an arrangement and determine what the net cost of this is going to be in relationship to cleanup. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 2-13(5): Environmental Liability Site Inventory

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the inventory of the sites demonstrates a liability which will be reflected in division of assets and liabilities prior to April 1, 1999. When will the Government of the Northwest Territories know what the amount will be for the Western Arctic and Nunavut? What would the time line be on that?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 2-13(5): Environmental Liability Site Inventory

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Environmental liability will be dealt with the same as any other liability in this government, through negotiations, and through some form that will determine when we get to the table and try to determine an appropriate process for assets and liabilities and the appropriate split in terms of costs and responsibility as we move towards April 1, 1999. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 2-13(5): Environmental Liability Site Inventory

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is acceptable for this government just to state that by a cursory inventory, we cannot afford to clean up these sites, and just leave it. Does the government,



the Minister's department in cooperation with Arviat have a plan to address the 624 identified sites to date for mediation?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Could I ask the Member for Iqaluit if he could rephrase his question as to the financial responsibility of the Minister? I heard two different questions and I would like you to rephrase your questions, Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will rephrase the question. It is not acceptable for this government just to state by cursory inventory that it seems we cannot afford to clean up these sites. So my question is, does the department have a plan to address the 624 sites and to clean them up?

Further Return To Question 2-13(5): Environmental Liability Site Inventory

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with my honourable colleague, it is not acceptable. There is no question about that. There are a lot of things that are not acceptable, that this government cannot do because of the fiscal constraint in which we are under.

I have already indicated to him that we have identified the sites and I am advised that it is going to cost somewhere around \$30 million, not for clean up, but just to do a careful analysis of what each of these sites are going to be. I am not prepared to commit today as to whether we could afford \$30 million right now or not. All I am telling you is, that as far as I am concerned, it is an important issue, it has to be identified and we need to find the funding. Maybe it is a joint

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federal/territorial responsibility. I do not know, but certainly, I do not have some money tree as people occasionally think I do and go out and pluck large dollar bills from the tree.

We are trying to deal with the issue as we move towards division for the assets and liabilities. We have done a preliminary review of 640 odd sites. I will endeavour, as I said in an earlier question, to answer his concern about responsibility and at the same time will undertake to determine an appropriate course of action as to whether we can do a full feasibility study

which will cost \$30 million and discuss it with the committee at the time and determine which programs, and which jobs and programs we are going to take it from.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 3-13(5): Standards for Mammogram Services

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Northwest Territories, Indian Affairs has the responsibility for the health and well-being of treaty people. We have the Medical Health Act, that sets out the standards for health care in the Northwest Territories. We have the Canadian Health Act, that is used to set standards in Canada. Further, we as a territorial government have developed a power of health devolved to the communities which is set out in their priorities. However, Mr. Speaker, what we do not have is a standard for mammogram testing. Did Mr. Todd say something? This is unlike other jurisdictions in Canada which I believe, Mr. Speaker, requires that women over the age of 50 have a mammogram test once a year. In addition, I believe that women over the age of 40 have a test every two years. For those standards are set by the provincial government, my question to the Minister is, in the development of standards for mammogram testing, is it the responsibility of this government, the federal government, or the regional health boards. Which is it?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 3-13(5): Standards for Mammogram Services

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility to set standards for overall health care delivery through the Northwest Territories. We have worked with our partners, the boards, that deliver the programs and the services to the constituents in recognizing their priorities and working with them in trying to support them in those initiatives. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 3-13(5): Standards for Mammogram Services

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister agree that the decisions on health and such issues in which the life and death are a concern, should those issues be left to the regional health boards?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 3-13(5): Standards for Mammogram Services

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, regional health boards have a lot of independence in recognizing the needs. They are made up of community representation on the regional boards to set programs and standards, and the concerns of the well-being of their services and constituencies is of their utmost priority just like it is of ours, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 3-13(5): Standards for Mammogram Services

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Final question, Mr. Speaker. Is it given the tripartite nature of the Northwest Territories Health Care System to federal departments, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and other regional health boards all directed some form in regard to public health care of our residents? I must ask the Minister, who, if anyone, has the final responsibility for the health of the people of the Northwest Territories, if everyone is involved?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 3-13(5): Standards for Mammogram Services

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister responsible for this government for Health and Social Services, I have the responsibility for the health and well-being of the residents throughout the Northwest Territories. But having said that, of course, the federal government and the federal ministry, as one of the main providers of funding for the health care system nationally also has standards and criteria and a responsibility to ensure that health care is delivered in an effective manner.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 3-13(5): Standards for Mammogram Services

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Final supplementary, as the Minister of this portfolio, and Minister in charge of health of all residents of the Northwest Territories, why is it that basically when I ask a question in regards to standards to be set for mammogram testing, the Minister responded that it was not his responsibility, it was the health board's responsibility. Why is that?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 3-13(5): Standards for Mammogram Services

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I said that it is the health board's responsibility to set their priorities and what programs they would deem as the most necessary ones to enact and to act on in a proactive manner, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 4-13(5): Capital Plan Status - Inuvik Hospital

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister responsible for FMBS. In light of his earlier answer to my colleague from Thebacha and talking about the Inuvik Hospital and saying that no, it would not be possible I would like clarification. The plan that is still in the five-year capital plan and is proceeding this year, have there been any changes? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 4-13(5): Capital Plan Status - Inuvik Hospital

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to deal with the big picture, and if I have confused my colleague, who I frequently look up to, I apologize. The reality is, what I was trying to explain is that \$100 million has come out of the capital budget over the last two years. That is a lot of money. That is a lot of money where capital projects did not go. There is a lot of money where people did not get jobs, as the NWT Construction Association and others have said, and we have to find new and creative ways to continue with that level of capital infrastructure to ensure:

- 1) the infrastructure is in place for the people we represent;
- 2) create economic activity and jobs;
- 3) meets the targets that we have set for deficit elimination.

That is the reason behind the questions earlier. I believe it, and that is the reason behind my answer. It is certainly not the intention to imply that my honourable colleague's hospital is in jeopardy. It is merely suggesting that unless we get changes, we may not be able to go with the public and private partnership route. That is the route we are heading with the development of these public structures, as he well knows. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 4-13(5): Capital Plan Status - Inuvik Hospital

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was understanding what was happening, but the people back in Inuvik, hearing this, probably react a little harshly to this. Knowing the concern and knowing the situation of the capital plan, I addressed this with the Minister of Health and Social Services last year and questioned the possibility of tying in some outside funding. Now, you have headed down and worked on that course. As we have heard earlier, are the amendments coming up critical for this partnership to be formed? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 4-13(5): Capital Plan Status - Inuvik Hospital

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

The short answer to that is, absolutely. We need to find the right policy methods to move forward, not only on my honourable colleague's project but on others. I want to assure him, for his audience back home that it is our intention, with the cooperation of this House, and I believe there are enough people who will cooperate with us, to move forward on these amendments, to get on with the job of doing what we are supposed to do, to try to find new creative ways to put the infrastructure that our constituencies expect, create new jobs, and still keep within the Deficit Elimination Act that is before us. I want to assure Mr. Roland that is the intention of this government, provided the cooperation of the House, we will be able to move forward this week and change the Act to do what has to be done, as I have said earlier. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 5-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo. On October 16th, Mr. Arlooktoo addressed the Legislative Assembly regarding improvement to the Keewatin fuel resupply. Since then, I have had the opportunity to talk to Mr. Pat Lyall, Chairman of the Nunasi Corporation on this regard. Mr. Lyall and his board members are

concerned about the potential impact to the small business people in the Keewatin region. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Steen, Mr. O'Brien and Mrs. Groenewegen have stated many times in this House that this government seems to be making a decision for Nunavut to be. We thought we agreed that the decision which will have an impact, come 1999, would be left up to the decision-makers of Nunavut. My question, Mr. Speaker, is why is the Government of the Northwest Territories committing to the Nunavut Government to direct resupply in Keewatin when we have said many times, the decisions such as this should be left up to the people of Nunavut? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 5-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The announcement I made last week had to do with the building of shore pipelines from the tank farms in four Keewatin communities to the shoreline which would enable offshore tankers to deliver fuel to those tanks rather than the barge operation, which exists now. This has to do with the decision made by Cabinet several months ago following recommendations of the Keewatin's Resupply Steering Committee, that the Keewatin resupply, whether it be fuel or for cargo should be open to competition, therefore, at some point in time, lower prices. At this point in time, as the Member may know, or up to now, the resupply to the Keewatin has been through sort of a negotiated contract with NTCL. The reason we are moving ahead with this is because as a government we know it is a good move. It will improve service overall, and over the 20-year life cycle of these pipelines, it will save \$100 million. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

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Supplementary To Question 5-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the same honourable Minister. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister give any guarantee that direct resupply to Kivallivik will provide employment and training for local people and economic spin-off to the communities in the way of work for local contractors? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 5-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, when the government reviews a request for proposal for building of the infrastructure, that I announced, the training and employment for local people and local businesses will get extra consideration, as they always do. I cannot guarantee that it will be a regional operation that gets these, but certainly we do insist that local people are hired, and we will make sure of that.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 5-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, supplementary. Mr. Speaker, one wonders why the Nunasi Corporation is concerned about the intent of the government to direct resupply, fuel supply to the Keewatin. It may have to do with that the Nunasi Corporation, the part-owner of NTCL, was not consulted on this matter. Was Nunasi consulted by the Minister and the Cabinet prior to decision-making of this matter? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 5-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been extensive consultation, for the past year, with all the Keewatin

communities with all the MLAs from the region. There has been a good number of meetings with NTCL. Most recently, there was communication between Mr. Clement, the President of NTCL and Mr. Lovely, our deputy Minister of Public Works. Overall, I would say that there has been very extensive consultation with all stakeholders on this project.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 6-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are also for the Minister of Public Works and Services, the Honourable Goo Arlooktoo in reference to the Minister's statement made in the Fourth Assembly entitled Improvements to Keewatin fuel resupply. Mr. Speaker, my interests in this matter are probably no surprise to anyone. A company which has headquarters in Hay River obviously employs a lot of people in my riding. Having said that though, of course, I would not want to be disrespectful and not recognize the aspirations of other regions. The motive for this RFP that the department is going out for, it is clear that the projected savings are \$65 million to \$100 million over a 20-year period. But they also refer to the linkages between dry cargo and fuel resupply. I was just wondering if the Minister could clarify for me, what the ramifications are for dry cargo, and what are the linkages between dry cargo and tanker resupply? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Minister of Public Works and Services, two questions.

Return To Question 6-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, firstly I must say that I do understand the Member's and the company NTCL's concern about possibly losing what amounts to a very lucrative contract over the years. I think it is important to clarify that we are not ruling out NTCL in this process. What we are doing is we are making the process competitive and open. We did, in fact, do that last year with the Eastern Arctic Fuel Resupply. In that contract, NTCL won fair and square because they had the best proposal. I think it is fair to say that with

this process that we have outlined, NTCL does have the upper hand right at square one because of their experience, because of their equipment, personnel, et cetera. The linkage between the dry cargo and fuel delivery is because during the consultation there was a fair amount of concern among some of the Keewatin communities on how the dry cargo resupply would be affected by the possible loss of fuel being delivered to the community by barge. That is why we have structured the RFP to make sure that when a company puts forward a proposal on how they would deliver fuel to the Keewatin communities, they also tell us the how's, why's and where's, they would deliver the dry cargo.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 6-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. NTCL is very competitive and it is reassuring to hear the Minister say they will be given the opportunity to respond to this RFP. Will the proposed RFP provide NTCL to bid this contract using the traditional tug and barge or some other form of configuration tug, barge and tanker? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 6-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The RFP will encompass both proposals, whether they be for tug and barge or by tanker. The reason why we are going ahead with a pipeline and why we are confident of the savings and why we are projecting that the offshore option will be the best is that during the consultations and studies we have had over the past year, we have received a very good idea of what the costs would be. Just to give you an example, to one Keewatin community, NTCL told us it would cost them 5.6 cents a litre to deliver fuel to a certain community in the Keewatin, compared

to the 23.3 cents that it costs now. Once you see those numbers, it is immediately very clear what the government must do.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 6-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact the RFP has not gone out, and has not been responded to, would it not be prudent on the part of the government to wait until they saw what kind of proposal a private contractor, northern and aboriginal owned, could come up with to deliver these services prior to building the pipeline? Is there any loss in a deferral or an extension of the contract until such time as they can accurately determine the actual costs, including dry cargo? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 6-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There would be a couple of losses. One is the loss of not going ahead with the project and if there was a one-year delay, the loss of at least one year in future savings. Also, there is no guarantee that after the one year, that future decision-makers would decide to go this way. Not because it is not a good idea, but because of all the other things that will be going on in the next year and a half, especially with division.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 7-13(5): Public/Private Partnership Policy

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the chairman of the Financial Management Board. It is in regard to the public/private partnerships. As the Minister indicated earlier, we have been discussing

other means of financing for quite a while now. I am glad we are finally getting to the point where we are getting a policy developed. I would like to know at what stage is the public/private partnership policy at?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 7-13(5): Public/Private Partnership Policy

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to publicly acknowledge my colleague's support in moving forward in this important initiative. Some Members of the House recognize the need to do this and Mr. Erasmus is one of them. The public/private partnership policy should be ready for Cabinet by the middle of November, as I am trying to fast track it, to try to accommodate the overall needs of this government and some of the needs of future governments. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 7-13(5): Public/Private Partnership Policy

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister assure this House that the appropriate committee will be involved with this policy, looking at it and making recommendations, before the policy is approved and implemented? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 7-13(5): Public/Private Partnership Policy

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

It would be prudent of me, given the concern that has been raised, certainly in committee earlier today and some of the anxiety, which I think is unnecessary. I would be prepared, after consultation with my Cabinet colleagues, to move it to the committee and discuss the matter with them and to seek their wise council on

whether this policy does meet the new criteria and the new demands that we have now placed upon this government and the building of public infrastructure. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 7-13(5): Public/Private Partnership Policy

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In looking at other public/private partnerships, one of the areas of concern is the risk that is involved with the partnerships. Would the Minister assure this House that the risk involved in the partnerships would be equally distributed between the government and the private partners?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 7-13(5): Public/Private Partnership Policy

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All we are trying to do in this policy is give some flexibility and creativity to ensuring we can continue at building the public infrastructure that is now demanded on us by our constituencies. It is important, I keep repeating that. There is not any plot out there. This is just a public policy statement, decision or change to try to ensure that we can continue with the infrastructure needs of the constituents we represent. I would suggest to my honourable colleague that I will commit today that once we get the public policy developed through the consultant we have hired, who has all kinds of experience in the Maritime Provinces, that I will go to the Standing Committee of Government Operations or whatever committee he so chooses, and vet it through them to ensure it has strong support in this Legislative Assembly, et cetera. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 7-13(5): Public/Private Partnership Policy

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously another concern is that Members do not want the five-year capital plan

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process to be circumvented. We would like assurances that projects that have been approved in a five-year capital plan will go forward. Would the Minister assure us of that?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 7-13(5): Public/Private Partnership Policy

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Speaker, I am not trying to circumvent, I am trying to increase it. I already indicated in committee earlier today about my question from Mr. Miltenberger that we would work out an arrangement to ensure the committees had full involvement in this thing. There was transparency, equity, fairness and all the normal stuff we say. Yes. We just have to work out the arrangement once we have approved the policy and, more importantly, approve the changes to the Financial Administration Act that I am going to bring forward later on today. Absolutely. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Just to remind the Members regarding the committees. Members cannot refer to committees that have not been referred to this House. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 8-13(5): Membership of Liquor Licensing Board

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance who is responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board. Recently, Members of this House received a copy of the Public Committees Boards and Councils Handbook. I noted the Liquor Licensing Board currently has five members, one of which is from Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, with the government's agenda for change and much emphasis is placed on community empowerment so that local decisions can be made at the community that is most effected by them; from that end, one of the main

functions of the Liquor Licensing Board is to receive applications to sell liquor in the Northwest Territories. As there is only one board member who is the chair on the liquor licensing board representing Yellowknife, my question to the Minister is, will he consider increasing the number of representatives from Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 8-13(5): Membership of Liquor Licensing Board

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would give that consideration.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 8-13(5): Membership of Liquor Licensing Board

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to help the Minister in his decisions, I would point out that in past boards, this fact was recognized and as I look at the statistics, the overall number of licences in the Northwest Territories is 158. One-third of them are issued in Yellowknife. That is the main reason for my concern. Could I have a comment from the Minister as to when he would give some consideration to my request? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 8-13(5): Membership of Liquor Licensing Board

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Tomorrow, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 9-13(5): Request for Proposals Guidelines

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister of Public Works and Services. I wonder if the Minister could tell us if he has guidelines and regulations respecting requests for proposals that he could pass on to us? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Deputy Premier, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 9-13(5): Request for Proposals Guidelines

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are certain guidelines and some general points that are used in developing request for proposals. I will pass those on to the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 9-13(5): Request for Proposals Guidelines

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell us when those were formulated?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 9-13(5): Request for Proposals Guidelines

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I cannot because I do not know at this point, but I can certainly find that out.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 9-13(5): Request for Proposals Guidelines

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could also tell us how many requests for proposals are



being issued by this government, under consideration now and that have already been issued this year?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 9-13(5): Request for Proposals Guidelines

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Yes, I will get that information and pass it on to the Member.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 10-13(5): Partnership Legislation

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, I am getting messages here. I seem to get the impression from the Minister of Finance that there is some legislation or lack of policy which would allow this government to enter into partnership with private enterprise for the construction of facilities or infrastructure. I would like clarification from the Minister of Finance, is there any legislation or is it just simply a lack of policy that is preventing this government from entering into a partnership with private enterprise?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 10-13(5): Partnership Legislation

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Entering into partnerships is not the problem, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I need to clarify for my honourable colleague, what I was talking about is the way in which the government gives guarantees under the Financial Administration Act. We need to change that just in case we need to provide some guarantees to the way in which we do capital infrastructure in the future, light roads et cetera. There are some limitations under the current Financial Administration Act. With respect to that, I will be bringing forward some amendments to the Act that earlier today have been vetted through committee. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 10-13(5): Partnership Legislation

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in other words, there are limitations under the Financial Administration Act, is that correct?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 10-13(5): Partnership Legislation

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

That is correct. There is half a million dollar limitation under the Financial Administration Act at this time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 11-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Services. Mr. Speaker, in my statement today, I referred to the request for proposal to the Keewatin resupply. Mr. Speaker, for the record, I want to state that I stand behind the report of the committee that I chaired on the resupply. I want to say I stand behind this report in its entirety. I think for someone to cherry pick is somewhat unfair. Mr. Todd, I will get to the question, I know you are very concerned about this issue. Mr. Speaker, the question is, at this point in time, what consultation has taken place with the communities? What meetings have taken place with the mayors and town councils? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 11-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I did state last week that I was very pleased that the government was able to come forward with such a positive proposal that was kind of a combination of the effort of our Ordinary MLAs and the government. The Keewatin Resupply Steering Committee was chaired by Mr. O'Brien. From what I read from the report we are doing exactly what the report asked us to do. I think what I can do for the part of his question is give time the chronology of events of the meetings that were held with the mayors, the MLAs. There were some very recent meetings in Arviat and there is one coming up next week. I plan to go to Arviat for a meeting with the hamlet council on Wednesday, this coming Wednesday at 7:00 with the Minister of Finance. We will be going over the concerns of the hamlet council point by point and see if we can deal with them. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 11-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the real issue here is not whether we are going to save \$50 or \$100 million. The issue is safety and all the people are asking for is to be assured that their environment will not be damaged or the sea life. Mr. Speaker, to date, the residents have not been properly consulted. We do not know for sure what the actual cost is today as far as the savings go. We hear numbers being thrown out and I think what the hamlets are looking for is to see these numbers to be assured that the environment is not at risk. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister, is he aware of any comprehensive study that is being carried out regarding a risk to the environment if this proposal is to go ahead?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 11-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the Member that the technology and the way of building these

short pipe lines will be the most current and safest that we can find. I would like to point out also that this type of resupply has been practised in the Baffin region for more than 30 years and has been improved upon. It is not a weak thing and is very safe. Certainly, I plan to give those assurances and give some more information to the hamlet of Arviat when I meet with them.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 11-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as we all know, regions differ from region to region and the concerns

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laid out in the Baffin were somewhat different, I am sure, from the Keewatin. Mr. Speaker, the hydrographic surveying and mapping that took place over the last summer in my home community of Arviat and some of the other communities in the Keewatin. Mr. Speaker, in reference to these have the results of this mapping and work been completed and analyzed so that we know exactly what is out there?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 11-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Initiative

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the latest status report on where these hydrographic maps are, but what I can say is that there is enough information there for us to say that it is possible to go with deep draft and shallow draft tankers into these communities. I will be pleased to share with the Member whatever information we have to date.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 12-13(5): Municipal Funding Inequity: Rae-Edzo

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you may recall last week during the Fourth Session, I made a Member's statement regarding inadequacies facing the hamlet of Rae under the current funding formula. Today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to give one example of this, and I will then ask some questions to the Minister responsible. The hamlet of Rae-Edzo provided a report that they had commissioned which states the hamlet of Rae-Edzo received the lowest per capita of contributions amongst all of the Northwest Territories communities. This report shows community areas where even the smallest hamlet are receiving more funding than my home community is. One example is this section of protected service my community has a population base of 1,615 and received \$68,059 or \$42.10 per person in my community, whereas a community of lower population received up to \$80,627 or \$90.10 per person in that community. As you can see there is something wrong. With this in mind I will ask the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, is her department communicating with the hamlet of Rae-Edzo to ensure this type of inequality is corrected with a review of the funding formula currently taking place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 12-13(5): Municipal funding Inequity: Rae-Edzo

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My staff are working together with Rae-Edzo representatives on this matter. One of the department's initiatives is a complete municipal financing review. This information and findings will be shared at the NWT Association of Municipalities annual general meeting. This specific matter is being dealt with by my department officials. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 13-13(5): NWT Employment Vision

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question would be directed to the Premier. During the last days of the Fourth Session, I asked him about his

economic panel and plans they had put forward. The Premier said he would forward me some information. It seems I do not have it yet and we are talking of trying to increase wealth in the Territories. Does the Premier have a plan and vision for the Territories as to increasing the jobs that are available to the people?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 13-13(5): NWT Employment Vision

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government is working on many initiatives for creating employment in the Northwest Territories and we are also working with the Premier's panel on the economy and employment for the Northwest Territories. As a matter of fact, we will be meeting this weekend and part of that agenda is to look at and discuss the Business Incentive Policy as well as northern manufacturing, transportation strategy, northern initiatives and investment of the northern people that our government is doing. We have already committed, Mr. Speaker, \$32 million investment in the people and to beef up the programs that we have in existence already. The Honourable Charles Dent as well as Steve Kakfwi steerhead that for this government and we expect great and exciting things to happen from that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral question. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 13-13(5): NWT Employment Vision

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully that excitement will hit the community soon. The Premier mentioned the transportation strategy and that strikes many in our community near and dear to their hearts, as that has been a topic that has been talked about for a long time. Is it a new strategy, is it something we can see being put forward and maybe implemented in the near future? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 13-13(5): NWT  
Employment Vision

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Jim Antoine, responsible for Transportation is working on the strategy along with other Cabinet Ministers as well as Mr. Todd, our Minister responsible for Financial Management Board Secretariat, is also working on that issue because it has to tie in with private sector partnership. There would be nothing new if there was only the government doing it. That is guaranteed for sure because as everyone knows, we are operating under a fiscal restraint. We do not have any new dollars to put into capital projects, highway projects, any type of projects. We have reduced our spending in the capital end of our budget. We are looking and trying to bring in private sector partnerships into the development of the transportation strategy as well.

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I had an opportunity this weekend, as a matter of fact, to go into Tuktoyaktuk with Mr. Vince Steen. I must commend Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk as well as the Department of Transportation for their fine work which is new work on the development of a plan to develop a highway from Tuktoyaktuk to Inuvik. I will take the time to read that plan. With the community being involved, Mr. Speaker, the community taking the bull by the horns, as could be said, and the community getting excited about economic development in their region. They have taken the initiative, an old transportation strategy that was tabled in previous Assemblies by Mr. Gordon Wray. It was revisited and all those gravel deposits were looked at, Mr. Speaker, throughout that region. Previously, before Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik leg were supposed -

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Can we get some order in the House, please, and allow the Minister to respond to the question? Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying my best to respond to the question in the quickest way possible, but also, like I was saying, I was quite honoured by the presentation in Tuktoyaktuk, where they have come up with new ideas. Previously, this government had said that it would cost approximately, for example, \$160 million to develop that infrastructure

from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk. But, from Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk people working with transportation people they have saved \$120 million already because they say it is only going to cost \$40 million. But what we have to do is work together with them, work together with the private sector. Hopefully, Mr. Todd will be able to pull a vehicle together along with Mr. Antoine from Transportation to find some private sector money to invest in our economy in the Northwest Territories. That is desperately needed and that is what is going to be new, Mr. Speaker, is the partnership arrangements. The partnership arrangements between northerners, southerners, all people, so that we can move ahead to the next century with new highways. Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Good answer.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Question period is over. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, petitions. Item 9, reports of standing and special committees. Item 10, tabling of documents. Mr. Ningark.

**ITEM 10: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

Tabled Document 1-13(5): Mid-Term Review Documents

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the package entitled Mid-Term Review Documents which consists of Building a Foundation for the Future, the Northwest Territories Agenda for Change, the Principal for Division and a Chronological Summary of Hansard Excerpts dealing with the development of the government's agenda. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 11, notices of motion. Mr. Morin.

**ITEM 11: NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

Motion 1-13(5): Mid-Term Review Process to Committee of the Whole

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, October 23, 1997, I will move the following motion.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the highlights of Mid-Term Review be moved into committee of the whole for consideration of the first item of business on Wednesday, October 22, 1997. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Notices of motion. Mr. Ningark.

Motion 2-13(5): Referral of TD 1-13(5) to Committee of the Whole

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 23, 1997, I will move the following motion.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin Central that Tabled Document 1-13(3) entitled Mid-Term Review be moved to committee of the whole for consideration when the topic Mid-Term Review is discussed. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Notices of motion. Mr. Ningark.

Motion 3-13(5): Setting of Sitting Hours by Speaker

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, October 23, 1997, I will be moving the following motion.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours as the Speaker, after consultation, deems fit to assist with decisions before the House. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 1: Power Corporation Act

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I give notice that on Thursday, October 23, 1997, I will move that Bill 1, Power Corporation Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Bill 2: An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have four notices of motion if I may. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 22, 1997, I will move that Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act, be read for the first time.

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Bill 3: An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 22, 1997, I will move that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Financial Act, be read for the first time.

Bill 5: An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 22, 1997, I will move that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Finance Administration Act, No. 2, be read for the first time.

Bill 6: An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act

Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, October 22, 1997, I will move that Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills.  
Mr. Ng.

Bill 4: An Act to Amend the Elections Act

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two notices of motion. I give notice that on Thursday, October 23, 1997, I will move that Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Elections Act, be read for the first time.

Bill 7: An Act to Amend the Territories Court Act

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 23, 1997, I will move that Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 13, motions. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 13: MOTIONS

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The Member for Tu Nedhe is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Motion 1-13(5). Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Morin, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 1-13(5): Mid-Term Review Process to Committee of the Whole

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Members of the 13th Assembly agreed that after two years have lapsed in the current term, that there should be a review where the Premier and Members of Cabinet shall report to and be accountable to Members on progress to date;

AND WHEREAS a review will permit Members of the Legislature to consider plans for the remainder of the term of the 13th Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the mid-term review should now be undertaken to permit Members opportunity to openly

discuss progress to date and shape direction to the end of the term of the 13th Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the item, Mid-Term Review, be moved into committee of the whole for consideration as the first item of business on Wednesday, October 22, 1997.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Motions. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The Member for Natilikmiot is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Motion 2-13(5). Do I have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Ningark, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 2-13(5): Referral of TD 1-13(5) to Committee of the Whole

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the 13th Assembly has agreed to conduct a mid-term review in committee of the whole;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council have produced a number of documents such as the Agenda for Change and Principals for Division to guide them for the term of the 13th Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS these documents will assist the conduct of the mid-term review;

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin Central, that the Tabled Document 1-13(5) entitled Mid-Term Review Documents be moved into the committee of the whole for their consideration when the topic Mid-Term Review is discussed. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Ningark, your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Motions. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member from Natilikmiot is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Motion 3-13(5), the setting of sitting hours by the Speaker. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Ningark, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 3-13(5): Setting of Sitting Hours by Speaker

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the Speaker be authorized to set sitting hours as the Speaker, after consultation, deems fit to assist with the business before the House.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Motions. Item 14, first reading of bills. Item 15, second reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, item 16, orders of the day.

ITEM 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Mr. Speaker, the meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations meets immediately after adjournment. Meetings for tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, and at 11:00 a.m. of the Ordinary Members' Caucus and at 12:00 noon of the Special Committee on National Unity.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, October 22, 1997:

1. Prayer

2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Consideration of the "Mid-Term Review"
  - Tabled Document 1-13(5), Mid-Term Review
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 22, 1997 at 1:30 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT