



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**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.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 11-13(5): Closure of Hay River Abattoir

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have a Member's statement today and I would like to proceed with it since this is a short sitting and there are a number of issues. My constituents will want to be hearing me representing their interests in the House.

Mr. Speaker, in the early 1980s some residents of Hay River began to pursue their vision of an abattoir in Hay River. In 1996, after years of planning, the facility was completed at a cost of \$2.1 million. Funding through an economic development agreement saw a 70/30 percent split between the federal and territorial governments respectively. The plant...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mrs. Groenewegen, could you slow down a bit. We have translators and the Members cannot keep up.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try and slow down. I was trying to hurry so we can get into the more meatier matters on the agenda today.

The plant could process any four-legged animal, wild or domestic.

In 1994, a five-year agreement was signed by a representative of the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Within the agreement was a clause that the Government of the Northwest Territories would cover all operation and maintenance losses for the first five years of the project. The abattoir went into production in early 1996. Just over one year later, the Government of the Northwest Territories exercised another clause within the five-year agreement and gave notice. Within 18 months of its opening the abattoir facility in Hay River was closed in July of this year.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Hay River sought clarification of this action by the government. What they see is that they had an agreement with their government to develop a meat processing plant within their community. Millions of dollars were spent to develop and run the facility for just over a year. It takes time for an operation to become self-reliant; the government gave them less than 18 months. The members of the board of directors and the employees for the abattoir had dedicated a full year to the plan ironing out the start-up problems and were prepared to continue to work hard. The community does not feel they were given enough time. Less than two years into the program, with financial viability on the horizon, the Northwest Territories Development Corporation decided to withdraw. In an effort to keep the abattoir operating, the Hay River Metis Development Corporation and the Territorial Farmers' Association formed a corporation for the management of the plant.

The closure of this plant is a loss to Hay River and the region, not only for all the time and money that have already been expended, but for the future development of resources. Ten people lost their jobs. There is an agriculture base in the town with no facility for the stock to be slaughtered and processed.

At this point, I would like to commend the stakeholders in the abattoir for their labour, expertise and input they placed into the venture. I am optimistic the abattoir will not be dormant for long and an alternative plan of action will be arrived at. My hope is

that the former board of directors of the Hay River abattoir will continue to be involved, that the government will respect the input of the community stakeholders and take into consideration their views on any future use of this facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 12-13(5): Premier's Visit to Tuktoyaktuk

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Premier Morin for accompanying me over the weekend to Tuktoyaktuk as we attempted to proceed on to Sachs Harbour. Unfortunately, we were unable to reach Sachs Harbour due to weather conditions in Sachs Harbour.

Although the original intent was to proceed to Sachs Harbour and meet with the local people who are involved in the muskox harvesting project, we did have opportunity to meet with the hamlet council of Tuktoyaktuk while over-nighting in Tuktoyaktuk.

Many issues were discussed such as the extension to Mangilaluk School and the Inuvik/Tuktoyaktuk highway and I am sure the Tuktoyaktuk hamlet council is grateful for the opportunity to make their concerns known directly to the Premier. The council is looking forward to followup actions on

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the part of the Government of the Northwest Territories to some of the issues and concerns expressed at this meeting, and I am sure the Premier is aware of this.

Although we did not get to view the muskox harvesting program first hand, the trip did serve to bring the whole project to the attention of the Premier as I am sure he was well briefed on the project by honourable Minister Kakfwi's staff. I hope the Premier will continue to support the muskox harvesting project in any way he can in his capacity as Premier.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I wish to once again express my appreciation to the Premier on behalf of the people of Tuktoyaktuk and Sachs Harbour, and I hope

we will return for another visit in the near future. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 13-13(5): Congratulates to RCMP Graduate Rufus Manik

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Rufus Manik from my own community of Arviat. Rufus just completed his diploma, graduated from the RCMP academy in Regina and is now a community constable. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 14-13(5): Recognition of Inga Alainga

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak about a remarkable individual from Iqaluit. Mrs. Inga Alainga was born in 1932 on Nottingham Island. Inga's parents were Mary Eeleeteeka Nakoolak and Peter William Mackenzie who was working for the Hudson's Bay Company in Port Burwell.

Mrs. Alainga and her family moved from Nottingham Island to Port Burwell and then to Resolution Island. Later, Mrs. Alainga married well known, respected Inuk leader, Simonie Alainga. Simonie and Inga went on to have 13 children and were well known for their devotion to helping others. Mrs. Alainga, after moving to Iqaluit, opened her home to many of the people from Baffin communities who had to travel to Iqaluit for hospital. Even today, with a boarding home for hospital patients, Mrs. Alainga continues to open her home for those patients.

The tragic boating accident in October, 1994, that took her loving husband and close relatives was very

difficult for Inga and all of her family. But Mrs. Alainga has remained strong and is still involved with helping others. She is well known for her cooking and still carries on the traditional art of sewing traditional clothes. She likes to make quilts and has a good sense of humour.

Mr. Speaker, after forcible relocations of raising a family, of the boat tragedy, Mrs. Inga Alainga has remained a strong and dedicated community leader, and I know that you and this House will join with me in thanking her for her generosity and humanity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 15-13(5): Arctic Bay Sport Hunting Trip

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Members often stand in this Assembly to make complaints about the shortcomings of government departments. Today, I rise to give thanks for assistance given at a critical time in my home community.

In late August, a very difficult situation arose in Arctic Bay. Niglasuk, a company owned by the Hunters and Trappers Organization in Arctic Bay, had planned a new venture. With the assistance of Canada North Outfitting, they had booked 13 American sport hunters to hunt caribou using sport hunting tags. The HTO was very pleased with this opportunity to earn income from sports hunting and had gone to the trouble of building a camp at Admiralty Inlet especially for these hunters.

However, when the first two hunters arrived in Arctic Bay, it turned out that through an oversight the necessary paperwork had not been concluded to allow the hunt to proceed. Since I understood that a commercial caribou quota had been set aside for the High Arctic, I turned to the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and Mr. Ben Kovic, chair of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, to see if the situation could be corrected in time to allow the planned hunts to proceed.

I wish to thank Mr. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Ben Kovic and their officials for the extraordinary efforts they undertook to correct the situation and allow the hunt to go ahead. I was very pleased to learn that provisions of the Inuit Land Claim Agreement do permit flexibility in situations such as the one which arose, and I was also pleased to learn that the Wildlife Management Board and the GNWT department could have such a good, co-operative working relationship. I know that they had to do a lot of work in a short period of time. If the sport hunters had to be turned away, it would have been a great setback for the renewable resources economy in Arctic Bay. For a community with high unemployment, the impact of these hunts is very significant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 16-13(5): Appreciation to Colleagues

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe all the Members have their receivers on now. I just wanted to give my thanks to my fellow colleagues, Members and especially to Mr. Speaker. I will try and make my statement short. I do not have anything written with me, I apologize for it.

I wanted to thank all my fellow Members for wishing me good luck while I was in the hospital in Montreal. I appreciated their sincere wishes for my recovery. I also would like to thank my constituents in my region. They supported me fully while I was

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in the hospital. I really, truly appreciate their good wishes they sent me while I was in the hospital. I also wish to thank the Premier, for he was able to accompany me in visiting my constituency.

I could not make it to my other communities, and I apologize for not being able to make it there because sometimes some things unforeseeable happen. In my case I could not make it to these two communities, due to the fact that I had to go down to Montreal for hospitalization. I just wanted to express my regrets to my constituents, and I also appreciate the Members for having supported me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 17-13(5): Passing of Melanie Beaulieu

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, Mr. Speaker, I have a heavy heart. This morning Mrs. Melanie Beaulieu, one of my home communities respected elders, passed away at the age of 76. Melanie was a hard working and caring mother. While she was young, she would help with fishing, trapping, always making sure the family was well taken care of. Melanie, in later years, has been suffering from illness and finally, this illness has taken her from us.

I would like to wish Melanie's family and friends my condolences; we will surely miss her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 18-13(5): Community Empowerment for Clyde River

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Everyone knows that one must learn to walk before they learn to run. However, before the first step can be taken, a child must have developed the necessary strength and muscles. Community empowerment is like taking our first steps. Before we can take on the responsibility for community empowerment, we must first strengthen our structures within our communities.

A child cannot walk without bones in his legs or muscles. A community cannot take steps towards community empowerment until it has a workable development plan and facilities. Clyde River is behind on what other communities are already enjoying. They do not have workable development plans, so they do not have muscles. There is a shortage of public housing and a lack of recreational and community facilities so that the community also lacks structural bones. If they do not have a plan and the necessary facilities, it would be futile for the community to take the steps towards community empowerment.

The town of Clyde River realizes that they are not ready to move towards community empowerment. They have decided to stop discussions for community empowerment because of seven issues. These are issues that the community thinks must be addressed before this discussion can continue. These issues are: Municipal Legislation Review; Funding Formula Review; Government and Community Interest; Nunavut Government's Position on Community Empowerment; A Community Plan for Development; Government of the Northwest Territories Deficit Recovery Plan. I hope that the Government of the Northwest Territories will support Clyde River in their decision.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 19-13(5): The Need for a Child Advocate

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Fourth Session of the current Assembly, I made a Member's statement in the House about the need for an advocate for children. The statement was followed up by oral questions.

My statement and questions have resulted in letters and conversations expressing a desire for me to further pursue this important matter. Education addresses the rights of children. It teaches them that they have a right to say no. This is only a preventative measure. What we need is an avenue for children when their rights have been ignored.

Many elders talk about the horrors that they experienced as youth. As children, they could not express their feelings; they could not express their shames. The effect of child abuse scars a victim for a life time. The failure to protect children from abuse is the greatest shame that falls upon society. It is only as adults, many victims of child abuse can access services that addresses their mistreatment. Often this is too late and the cycle of abuse has been repeated.

The stigma attached to being abused is one of shame and worthlessness that can lead to despair, self loathing, low self esteem and suicide. In the Northwest Territories 644 cases of physical abuse of children have been reported since 1992; 887 cases of sexual abuse of children have been reported during

that same period. Mr. Speaker, the figure for both sexual abuse and physical abuse is staggering, 1,531 reported cases of abuse reported in the last five years. Since 1994, 40 young people have taken their lives. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since 1994, 40 young people have taken their lives. We do not know how many of them were victims of abuse.

Mr. Speaker, these are only the reported cases. We have captured just the tip of the iceberg. We do not know the actual number of children that are being physically and sexually abused. Children are innocent, but can be made to feel that they are the cause of their own abuse. This makes them reluctant to seek help from figures of authority and family members.

It is now time for the Government of the Northwest Territories to take this responsibility seriously. We are the only representatives of the people and that also includes children. Now is the time to listen to our youth; we must have an advocate for children. We must have an independent office that serves the youth of the Northwest Territories. Our children

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must have an agency that they can go to where they do not have to feel guilt, shame and worry that their abuse will become community knowledge. Our children are our future; we must face this future.

Mr. Speaker, I could not bear it if years from now I was approached by a victim and asked, "Why, when you were a Member of the Legislative Assembly, did you not help me?" As leaders, I ask you, the Members of the Legislative Assembly, years from now, when you are approached by a victim of child abuse and asked this question, "Why, when you were a Member of the Legislative Assembly, did you not help me?" What will you answer?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 20-13(5): Issues From the Yellowknife MLAs Constituency Meeting

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week, three of the Yellowknife MLAs held a constituency meeting, and I wanted to elaborate briefly on some of the concerns that were brought up there.

One of the first things that was discussed was the traditional healing program that is funded by the federal government. It was felt that the program should be expanded and that more people should have access to that program. The privatization of government services took a beating. We know that privatization was initially aimed at reducing government expenditures, but the general feeling at the meeting was that the public expected that the cost for the services should also go down for them, if it is going down for the government. But unfortunately this does not seem to be the case. The examples that were brought up indicated that the costs for the public actually went up as well.

The Diamond Sorting Facility was brought up. It was generally felt that it is politically unacceptable that there should not be a diamond sorting facility in the Northwest Territories in a community.

Student Financial Assistance, it was felt that there should be a way to make financial assistance free from income tax to the students, because once they get back home many of them find themselves with a huge bill just at the end of the year when they actually need money, and they have to make a payment to the federal government.

Affirmative Action, a lot of people felt that things were going backwards with affirmative action and particularly that the loss of personnel has contributed to this.

There was also considerable discussion concerning the conflict of interest clause that senior Government of the Northwest Territories employees have within their contracts. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Yellowknife North is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do I

have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Erasmus, you have unanimous consent to conclude your statement.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated, the conflict of interest clause that is within many senior government officials contracts which indicated that they are not supposed to work within the same field of interest that they had been working in for a year, or something like that, there was a lot of discussion about it, and it was generally felt that there should be no "not withstanding clause" to allow people to escape from their commitments that they had made in their contract when they began their employment with the territorial government. The feeling was that anybody who works for the territorial government and benefits from the training, education, experience and knowledge that they gain within their area, they should not be able to use that for their betterment immediately after they leave our employment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 21-13(5): Fort Simpson  
Municipal Election Results

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the north there was an election for mayor and council for the tax-based municipalities. First of all, I would like to commend all the individuals that had put their names forward to be considered for community public service. I would like to congratulate the successful candidates for the mayors and for members of all the different councils at their election. The next three years will be a crucial time during their term at the community level. There will be many challenges facing them as we get into division and community empowerment and self-government arrangements that we are dealing with.

The village of Fort Simpson, which I represent here as an MLA, had an election. I would like to congratulate the successful village council members. Norm Prevost has been re-elected as the mayor for Fort Simpson, along with council of: Carl Lafferty, Gordon Villeneuve, Marilyn Napier, Tom Wilson, Bob Hanna, Lindsay Waugh, Ron McCagg and Owen Rowe. These are the members that have been elected in

Fort Simpson. I would like to congratulate them at this time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 22-13(5): De Beers Building  
Project for Luanda

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a news release that I received from George Burns who is a director of De Beers in London.

Endiama and De Beers are pleased to announce the formal signing of an agreement to develop a 12-storey building in Angola on land leased from Endiama which adjoins Endiama's existing offices in the central business district of Luanda. The building will be owned by De Beers and will house a purpose built and secure diamond sorting facility where Angolan diamond production will be sorted and valued. Endiama, the Angolan national diamond company, will be the owner of three floors in the new building.

This building will incorporate the latest technology required for the efficient and secure handling of rough diamonds. The building will house facilities for training Angolans in the key

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skills of sorting and valuing rough diamonds. De Beers has built similar facilities in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, and brings considerable experience to this type of development.

The building will cost approximately \$30 million US to develop and equip. Locally based building contractors will be employed, and it is expected that hundreds of jobs will be created during the construction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE  
GALLERY

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Pat Thomas, Northwest Territories Teachers Association, for past negotiations.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 14-13(5): Appointment of Baffin Health Board Chair

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been a couple of weeks since the resignation of the chair of the Baffin Regional Health Board. I would like to ask some questions about the board and hospital. Can the Minister advise this House as to the process to appoint a new chair? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 14-13(5): Appointment of Baffin Health Board Chair

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing the importance of the chair of the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board, I actively had some discussions with some of the Baffin representatives of this House. I asked the Deputy Premier, Mr. Arlooktoo, to speak to Achimo Kamukaku, the acting chair of the Baffin Regional Board to see whether he would be interested first of all or if he had any other suggestions about possible candidates that could act as chair. There was a suggestion by the Baffin and Iqaluit Chambers of Commerce where they proposed a few names for consideration and issued a press release in that respect. I had a preliminary look at it and had some discussions, as I indicated with the Baffin members, to seek out whether or not the possibility of Mr. Dennis Patterson, former member of this House, former Health Minister, former Premier, was interested in taking on that responsibility. I called Mr. Patterson myself personally and asked him. He did express an interest. Mr. Arlooktoo spoke again with the acting chair, Mr. Kamukaku, who undertook some consultation with his Health and Social Services

Board colleagues. I spoke to Mr. Lazarus Ariak, president of the Baffin Regional Inuit Association and got his input, the possibility of having Mr. Patterson appointed as well and as it stands now, there is no opposition to having Mr. Patterson's name put forward as the chair for the Baffin Health Board. Right now we are in the process of preparing some documentation to that effect, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary to Question 14-13(5): Appointment of Baffin Health Board Chair

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the board is without Iqaluit representation. I understand two names have gone forward to the Minister. I wonder if the Minister could update on the appointment of those two Iqaluit nominees?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 14-13(5): Appointment of Baffin Health Board Chair

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would anticipate we are aware of the nominees and again they are in the process of having the formal appointment documentation prepared. I would think we will do it in as timely a fashion as possible. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 15-13(5): Resources for Abused Children

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. It is in regard to my Member's statement about the child advocacy group. My question to the Minister is in the case of many small communities in the Northwest Territories, everyone knows each other. That makes it awfully difficult for victims, especially of child abuse, who are basically ashamed, feel responsible of their abuse



and feel it is partly their fault. Mr. Speaker, let us suppose that a child was sexually abused last night, and today he wants to go to complain. Can the Minister tell us where does this child go to get help?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 15-13(5): Resources for Abused Children

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are various avenues in the community an individual could go to all of the front line staff area. Whether it is a law enforcement official, municipal enforcement official, a teacher, a social worker, community awareness worker, alcohol and drug worker. There are different avenues and different structures within each community to report incidents of potential abuse of any kind and of course, avenues to take the appropriate action based on those complaints, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 15-13(5): Resources for Abused Children

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is exactly the problem that we see in a lot of small communities is that the

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victim of child abuse seeks local services and trying to remain anonymous can be a problem, especially in small communities where before the child gets the opportunity to take legal action or find someone to assist him, everyone in the community knows about it. I think that is the reason that there has to be a mechanism in place, where the child knows where he is going with this information and it will be kept confidential. The individual should know that when they file a complaint, something will be done about it.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko, do you have a question? Supplementary?

Supplementary To Question 15-13(5): Resources for Abused Children

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Mr. Speaker, in regard to my question when you say local services and want to remain anonymous, where can you go without the agencies that the Minister mentioned, are not the supposed agency where you know, whatever you say will be confidential and you will be able to deal with it? My question was, is there such an individual group or agency where that individuals can go?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 15-13(5): Resources for Abused Children

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All professionals have oaths of confidentiality depending on profession and guidelines, codes of conduct that they adhere to. I think it is important to say that no matter who that individual approached, ultimately it will be referred to whomever is responsible for the child's welfare issues in that community that has a legislative authority to apprehend, if necessary, on a temporary basis or on a longer term basis depending on the circumstances and provide for the immediate protection of that individual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 15-13(5): Resources for Abused Children

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister could be more precise in regard to which individual group do these children have the opportunity to go to. That is the point of an advocacy group is to ensure that there is an individual department responsible for child concerns and issues that affect children, so that they know there is an agency out there that takes care of them without having to run between every department and agency, with concerns such as these. I would like to ask the Minister, is there one specific group that is

in the community where an individual with a complaint of sexual abuse can go to?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 15-13(5): Resources for Abused Children

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am trying to explain to the honourable Member that ultimately there is a child welfare worker that will have the decision on whether or not to apprehend. There are different avenues that an individual can report, but ultimately, whoever the individual reports to has to go back to the child care worker who has the legal statutory authority for apprehension, whether it is on a temporary or permanent basis to deal with the issue of protection of that individual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 15-13(5): Resources for Abused Children

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the response, I mean, the child is the innocent victim here. I do not think the child should be the one that is taken away and locked up in another home because of something that happened to him that was not his responsibility. I think that is exactly the reason we have an agency that oversees child advocacy in the north, so that they know their rights are being protected, and they have an opportunity to raise their concerns. I would like to ask the Minister, if these issues are important enough, will the Minister take into account that he seriously looks at the possibility of establishing a child advocacy group in the Northwest Territories?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 15-13(5): Resources for Abused Children

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in the past answers to this question, with the new family law legislation particularly the Child/Family Services Act, we think there are enough safeguards and mechanisms in there. First and foremost, the principle of the whole bill is for the protection of children. Individuals who do not know how to be able to protect themselves and where we have a legislative authority to intervene in those types of situations in their best interests and that will continue to be the case, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Question 16-13(5): Response from First Air

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Transportation. I have written a letter to the president of First Air as well as the chairman of the board. The Minister has also written to the same people I have mentioned on my behalf to support me. I have not received an answer yet to my letter. My question is whether they should be able to fly to Hall Beach, Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay? I have seen the letter that the Minister has given us his support, and I was very pleased with this, but I have not been given an answer to my question. Has the Minister himself been given an answer from First Air about the letter I am referring to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 16-13(5): Response from First Air

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have not received any reply from my letter as well. Thank you.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 17-13(5): Timing of Keewatin Resupply

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are in followup to the questions asked yesterday of the Minister of Public Works and Services. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Mr. Arlooktoo referred to the cooperative effort amongst MLAs and Ministers that resulted in the motions adopted by the Keewatin Resupply Committee. Mr. Speaker, I am having some difficulty reconciling the statement of the Minister with the direction that was ultimately taken by the committee. I refer to the committee's comment that and I quote, "Insufficient information is available to make any decisions on investments and transportation and fuel distribution infrastructure". Could the Minister please provide me with some reconciliation between the committee's direction and his reference to announcing that Public Works and Services will be issuing requests for proposals in November for the private sector construction of fuel delivery pipelines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 17-13(5): Timing of Keewatin Resupply

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously a great deal of more information has been received over the last few weeks since the report was issued. I still stand by the statement that we are very close to following the directions of the steering committee to the letter. The steering committee recommended that changes do not take effect until 1999 or 1998, I believe. That is when the contracts for the current fuel delivery is over. In order to have those changes take effect a year and a half from now, we need to be making the appropriate planning and actions now. That is how they correlate.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Ms. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 17-13(5): Timing of Keewatin Resupply

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister also referred to the community consultation in his statement which he indicated is under way at this time. I have received at least some evidence of concern by the affected

communities. The Minister did indicate he would be travelling to Arviat next week but if this consultation has not yet been undertaken and concluded, my question is why is the request for proposal going out in November? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 17-13(5): Timing of Keewatin Resupply

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were a number of meetings in the region with the steering committee, I had my staff from the Petroleum Products Division from Rankin Inlet and here, have discussions with the affected communities. The ongoing consultation I spoke of has to do with concern by some of the communities on the location of the pipelines.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 17-13(5): Timing of Keewatin Resupply

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, when I questioned the Minister yesterday about the prospect of a delay in this initiative, he responded and I quote from the unedited Hansard, "there is no guarantee that after one year the future decision-makers would decide to go this way". If the Minister is saying that a one year delay would result in the project not going ahead, how confident, can he be, Mr. Speaker, of the results of this communities consultation and further work that needs to be done?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 17-13(5): Timing of Keewatin Resupply

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have received information from the hamlet of Arviat of their concerns about the location. I spoke, yesterday, to Mr. Flynn, the senior

administrative officer in that community. I also spoke with the mayor, my long time friend, Peter Kay, who was in Whale Cove at meetings, and we agreed there was enough items on the table that would warrant meetings and discussion. I will be meeting with him on Monday in Igloodik where he will be attending the NTI Meeting. On Wednesday, I will meet the hamlet council and the deputy mayor. Most of the concerns from that community, as I understand it, have to do with the location of the pipelines and also the service or perceived lowering of service in the dry cargo area. I believe strongly we will be able to reassure the community that we will do all we can and will ensure there are no environmental damages. We will also ensure they receive good and adequate dry cargo services as all other northern communities do. That is the reason why I am fully confident that the consultations going on now will be completed.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Ms. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 17-13(5): Timing of Keewatin Resupply

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was more in relation to why the Minister speculated if there was a one year delay, the project would not go ahead. However, my final supplementary question is, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Arlooktoo indicated yesterday that extensive consultation was undertaken with the private sector specifically, the president of NTCL. Could the Minister please share with the House, the results of that consultation and how that came to bear on the direction decided by the Department of Public Works and Services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo. Two questions.

Further Return To Question 17-13(5): Timing of Keewatin Resupply

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**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First on the one year delay what I indicated yesterday and I think it is clear now. A one year delay may not be a good idea because in a year the Legislative Assembly here, all the decision-

makers in Nunavut and all the decision makers in the west will be right in the middle of trying to deal with all the complicated issues of division. I believe there will be very little room at the time to deal with other important issues such as this. There is enough evidence now that this is a good move. It is a money making move to the tune of \$100 million over 20 years. We need to act on it now.

On the issue of consultation. The president of NTCL, Mr. Clement was contacted on several occasions. There was correspondence between the department and NTCL but understandably, I believe that NTCL being forced into a competitive process rather than being the carrier of choice or being guaranteed a contract each year is not so comfortable with the idea. We have tried to reassure them that the process will be fair, it will be open and if you look at it logically, the company has as good a chance or a better chance than any other.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 18-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Savings

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Public Works and Services. Mr. Speaker, the conventional kind of method for delivering fuel in the Keewatin region provides jobs for people of that area and provides business opportunity for the company owned by people of Nunavut area. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has indicated this initiative provides a saving to the government and to the people of that area. Of course, we know that the construction of the pipeline is going to cost money. My question is, how long will it take, Mr. Speaker, for the people of that area and the government to see realized savings of the construction of a pipeline in the Keewatin area? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 18-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Savings

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe once the project goes into effect, the savings realized will be

immediate and they will be significant. All indications and conservative estimates we have now, say the transportation cost of fuel will be about one quarter of what they are now. The savings realized will be significant and will be more once the pipelines are paid for in five years time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 18-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Savings

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we just have recovered from the deficit elimination. I would caution the government, myself, the amount of money we spend, the expenditure. Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question to the Minister is, how many jobs will be realized from the construction of the pipeline and at this point in time, how many jobs are required to manage the conventional method of delivering fuel to the Keewatin area? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 18-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Savings

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have an accurate number of jobs that will be realized from these four infrastructure projects that are worth several millions of dollars in total in the four communities. I certainly can share that information with the Member once we complete the requests for proposals and the proposals, but these are incremental projects and jobs to what is planned. I just wanted to comment on the conventional methods of delivering fuel. Right now the conventional method in Keewatin is by tug and barge. As technologies get better and as we move forward we realize now that it is cheaper and more efficient to go through the offshore tanker route very much in the same way that we deliver goods before we used the bombardiers and the biplanes, et cetera. We have moved on and I see that in a similar light. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 18-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Savings

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the same honourable Minister. Obviously we have not done any research in the area. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister delay the project until such time that full research is done by the government?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 18-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Savings

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer is no. As I said before the government, the department and myself feel that we have more than enough information and evidence that there will be significant savings to the Government of the Northwest Territories, the government of Nunavut and the people of the Keewatin especially. This project has to and will go ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 19-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Pipelines

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to Mr. Arlooktoo, Minister of Public Works and Services. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister what is the estimated completion date of the fuel delivery pipelines in the Keewatin?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 19-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Pipelines

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it is before the sealift delivery season in 1999.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

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Supplementary To Question 19-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Pipelines

**MR. STEEN:**

Mr. Speaker, the Minister stated in his statement on the 16th of October, the government will lease back the pipeline for a five-year period at which point it will be owned outright by the Nunavut government. Mr. Speaker, sealift date of 1999 is five months after Nunavut date. Why would this government continue to pay?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 19-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Pipelines

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the government responsible for the entire Northwest Territories, it is important to remember we are still dealing with the whole of the Northwest Territories. This is one area we have been working on for a long time, the improvement of sealift, the improvement of the fuel delivery in the entire eastern Arctic. We recently completed the signing of a large contract with NTCL for the eastern Arctic for last year and this is part of the ongoing improvements we are making to how we deliver fuel in the eastern Arctic.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 19-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Pipelines

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has indicated he had been in touch with all concerned parties who are involved in this particular project. I was wondering, Mr. Speaker, was one of the

concerned parties the Interim Commissioner of Nunavut, Mr. Anawak? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 19-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Pipelines

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the information in front of me of what consultation has taken place with the Interim Commissioner, but this is certainly one of the issues because it is a contract that goes beyond division that it will ultimately have involvement of the Interim Commissioner.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 19-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Pipelines

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, does the Minister agree then that the Interim Commissioner should definitely be involved in the approval of this project, since Nunavut is going to be responsible for paying for it after April 1999?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 19-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Pipelines

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly we will be communicating with the Interim Commissioner our plans to seek his support. What we have to remember is, what this project means is a savings of \$65 to \$100 million for the people of the region and of the Nunavut government over the next 20 years. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 20-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Project

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is also to the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services in reference to the fuel resupply issue. I heard the Minister state that the answer was no, and he would not give consideration to delaying this project. Mr. Speaker, that seems to be the corner stone of this government over the last number of months, which is the lack of consultation, and the lack of listening to people. My question to the Minister is, is the Minister aware that the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce, this is not just an Arviat issue, includes all of the communities in the Keewatin? Is the Minister aware that the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce, the mayors of Arviat, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Tuktoyaktuk have stated very clearly they are concerned about this project and that it should be delayed until all the details and information are provided? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 20-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Project

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have received copies of the correspondence by some of the individuals whom the Member mentioned. Yes, I have seen the correspondence. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 20-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Project

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Mr. Speaker, the issue of the resupply has been talked about for quite some time now. The report the committee which I chaired, indicated that they did state we could work toward direct resupply, providing certain conditions were addressed and met. Mr. Speaker, I am convinced these conditions have not been met. I would once again ask the Minister if he could assure the people of the Keewatin there is no risk to the environment or to sea life if this project were to move forward? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 20-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Project

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it is important to keep pointing out that we are speaking of more than significant savings to the region, businesses, government and to the citizens of Nunavut and ultimately to the Canadian tax payer of \$100 million over 20 years. That to me as Minister of this government and one who has great interest in the future government of Nunavut, is something that is very important which grabs me immediately. As far as I am

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concerned the other issues are details that can be worked out and that we are working on them.

There are a couple of issues that have been brought up on the environmental side. One is on the issue of Char River site that the Member spoke of yesterday. I want to reassure the residents of Arviat, there is no way as Minister of Public Works and Services, as an outdoor person and a fisherman myself, that I would do anything to risk or to destroy Char River. So that is something that I am going to be talking about to the community, the issue of other possible environmental damage. The only thing that we can do is to minimize the risks. The way that the fuel will be delivered to the Keewatin region is the same way that fuel is delivered to the rest of the eastern Arctic. Fuel is delivered by sea now through the barges. This is just a different way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 20-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Project

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not disputing the fact that there are probably savings in reference to this project. The issue is the environmental concerns, and the people are asking that the project be delayed until these concerns are addressed thoroughly. I do not think that is much to ask for. We are 16 or 17 months away from division.

There are a number of community groups in the Keewatin that are concerned about this project. Once again, I ask the Minister if he will consider delaying this project until all the facts are brought forward. That is all they are asking for. It is not really a major concession. I am concerned why the Minister is so bent on slamming and jamming and ramming this thing through when the proper consultation has not taken place yet. It is very basic what the people are asking for. I think there is enough community leaders and groups that have expressed their concern. We are not saying it is a bad idea, but what they are asking is for proper consultation. My question to the Minister is the hydrographic surveys that were completed, how much detail has been provided at this point? Have they been fully analyzed so that we can verify whether or not it is safe to bring these vessels into or close to the communities, and when will he share this information with us? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

You have used up all your supplementary, Mr. O'Brien. I heard three questions.

Further Return To Question 20-13(5): Keewatin Resupply Project

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I certainly do not view \$100 million as a minor concession. To me, it is a major driver of the work we are going ahead with and that is to improve the way we deliver fuel and to save this very large bundle of money for the people of Nunavut, especially the people of the region, the government and as I said, ultimately the Canadian taxpayer who provides us with more than 80 percent of our government dollars that we spend.

I would have to say that the information I get from my officials is that they were an adequate number of meetings held of the steering committee which the Member chaired of which I understand, the Member also missed several meetings that were very critical and important. As I said, the project should go ahead, but there are some details on issues we need to work around, such as environmental and infrastructure issues. We will do that.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien. Your point of order.

Point of Order

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Mr. Speaker, I take exception to the Minister's comments that I, as chair of the committee missed several meetings that is utter nonsense. That is false. That is a false statement. I ask for him to retract it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Kivallivik is responding to a response the Minister made. I have not heard which point of order has been broken here. Perhaps, the Member could clarify?

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My point of order is that a false statement has been made by the Minister in reference to my attendance at meetings, in which I attended all meetings of this committee, which I chaired. I feel he should retract that statement. It is unprofessional. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Again, I would remind the Members my job or duty as Speaker is to conduct the House according to the rules of this House. I do not know whether or not Mr. O'Brien missed two meetings as Chairman of a committee, and I do not know whether or not the Minister is correct in saying that. I do not know that, but I did not hear under which rule the point of order is raised. That is my question. If we have a point of order that has been violated, I would like to hear it. If not, can we continue with this question, Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding, when a statement is made in this House, a false statement, and one misrepresents the House, that it is not acceptable. That, Mr. Speaker, is my point of order. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien, if we are looking at the rules of debate, we have Section 23(i), which imputes false or hidden motives to a Member.

I would like to ask if it is under that point that he is making this point of order? Also, again just under the parliamentary rules and forms by Beauchesne's, it also says that it has been formally ruled by Speakers that statements by Members respecting themselves



and particularly within their own knowledge must be accepted.

I must accept Mr. O'Brien's statement. If that is so, then are we looking at a point of order under section 21(i)? I must accept the Member's statement by his saying he did not miss any meetings. But I still did not hear Mr. O'Brien raise on that point of order that Mr. Arlooktoo has, on this point of order imputes false of hidden motives to another Member. I must hear it from the Member. Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Todd, for your encouragement. I know, Mr. Todd, you are always trying to help somebody. I certainly will not be asking it from you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Speaker, according to Section 23(i), that is the point in which I have raised my point of order. Thank you.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. I will review the Hansard and give my ruling at a later date. Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 21-13(5): Need for Child Advocacy Group

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier in regard to my Member's statement in regard to a child advocacy group. In my statement I referred to certain statistics in regard to the Northwest Territories where 644 cases of physical abuse of children have been reported since 1992; 887 cases of sexual abuse of children have been reported during the same period.

Mr. Speaker, the figures of both sexual and physical abuse is staggering at 1,533 reported cases in a five-year period. Also, since 1994, there has been 40 young people whom have taken their lives. It goes on in regard to what we hear in the news regarding child pornography. The court case in the north of what happened in institutions where a lot of young people went to school, especially in hostels in relation to Grollier Hall and other institutions, who are finally coming forward.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier is, with these staggering statistics, do you think it is a critical matter that we deal with the whole question of finding

an advocacy group to ensure that a child advocate will work to ensure the legal protection of children and to promote their welfare in society? Mr. Speaker, my question is, are these staggering statistics telling us that we should do something in regard to the protection of these children? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 21-13(5): Need for Child Advocacy Group

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have my Minister responsible for Health and Social Services answer that question. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree these statistics warrant concern. It is safe to say we do have the legal authority now, and that is to implement measures as a result of any kind of activity which may jeopardize children or put them at risk because of elements outside of their control. We do have the legislative authority and we do use that authority in child apprehension situations which require it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 21-13(5): Need for Child Advocacy Group

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping the leader of this House will be able to assist me on this matter without shuttling to the Minister, who I have been asking questions on this matter time and time again, who has not really done anything about.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I would like to remind the Members, if it is not within the knowledge of the Premier, then he will refer those matters to the Ministers responsible for that

department. That is why the Premier did refer the question to the appropriate Minister. I would like to remind Members not to raise the issue of whether or not the Premier should be responding to those questions. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the statistics I mentioned, in regard to the Department of Health and Social Services. Is there an agency to protect children in place, at the present time?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 21-13(5): Need for Child Advocacy Group

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under the Child Welfare Act, right now and under the future Child and Family Services Act, which will be put in place next year, the Department of Health and Social Services, has the legal child welfare protection issues on statutory obligations in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 21-13(5): Need for Child Advocacy Group

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell me exactly how many person-years we have presently in this particular area of child protection or child welfare in his department that presently exists to assist children in regard to concerns that they have?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 21-13(5): Need for Child Advocacy Group

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have that detail of information with me right now. I will find

out exactly how many child welfare protection workers there are throughout the Northwest Territories under the employ of ourselves or the Health and Social Services board and advise the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 21-13(5): Need for Child Advocacy Group

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister also tell me exactly how many people do we have in regard to researching? Assisting clients in regard to cases of sexual abuse? Any cases in regard to child pornography? And cases in physical abuse of children, in regard to apprehending people and taking them to court? How many people do we have in that portfolio?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Minister, I heard about five questions.

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Further Return To Question 21-13(5): Need for Child Advocacy Group

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will, at the same time as requesting information under child protection workers, read the Hansard and have staff compile all that information that the Member has asked for. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 22-13(5): Aurora Fund Eligibility

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week we had a briefing on the Aurora Investment Fund. I would like to follow up with some questions on the fund with the chairman of the FMB. I know the government has stated that the Aurora Fund is at arms length from government, but I believe it is an instrument of government. Can the Minister or an Ordinary Member

of this Assembly or companies they have an interest in, receive loans from the fund? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 22-13(5): Aurora Fund Eligibility

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a fairly serious question, with a connotation to it that it will require me to take the question as notice, so I can give a clear and concise response to my honourable colleague, until tomorrow. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko. Mr. Picco. No, I am sorry Mr. Picco, we have other Members that wish to ask questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 23-13(5): Plan for Hay River Abattoir

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, in my Member's statement, I alluded to the closure of the Hay River abattoir. It was a very good statement, and I was completely thrown off course by the Member, my colleague from Thebacha, over there shaking his head and making hand motions. It was, as usual, going to be a very good statement. I must confess he did throw me off.

In followup to that Member's statement, I am not going to ask the Minister for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development to revisit history and explain the rationale behind terminating the five-year agreement between the company which managed the Hay River abattoir, Western Arctic Foods, and his department. But I would like to hear from the Minister some reassurances that all of this effort and money invested was not in vain, and that there is a concise plan in place to make sure this facility gets up and running again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 23-13(5): Plan for Hay River Abattoir

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the abattoir was born long before I came along. The Member could not enjoy a personal summary of the history of that particular project. But I do know that when I came along, the parties involved in it, mainly the Department of Economic Development and the Northwest Territories Development Corporation were less than satisfied with the way that the abattoir was being utilized. In fact, the suggestion was that Hay River, being the entrepreneurial capital in the view of some Members, I think, the Member from Hay River would be the first to suggest that, it is not an out-of-step demand to ask that the private sector should take the lead in making full, economic use of this abattoir and that it is not acceptable to think that the Government of the Northwest Territories, through its department or through its Northwest Territories Development Corporation, should continue to carry this operation indefinitely, suffering financial losses in the process. That was the situation as I saw it when I became Minister. That is still the way I see it. The abattoir is there. It is ready to be utilized. It is sitting in the middle of a thriving entrepreneurial community. I asked them to look within their creative little souls to see if someone could come out and say, let me have the lease of this wonderful abattoir, and I shall create jobs and make myself a nice business income and profit in the meantime. I am waiting for such a proposal.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 23-13(5): Plan for Hay River Abattoir

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do thank the Minister for his kind words about my community. He is absolutely right. It is a thriving entrepreneurial community and people who have been involved with the abattoir to date have been undertaking to put together a consortium to get it up and running again. I am sure we will accomplish that. Will the Government of the Northwest Territories involve the community of Hay River in the consideration of any proposals to reopen the Hay River abattoir? There are people who have spent much time and effort on this. We would like to

have them consulted in this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 23-13(5): Plan for Hay River Abattoir

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker. As a Minister, I would be pleased to work as closely as I could with the mayor and other interested members of the community, to look for someone from the private sector that is willing to take a hands-on approach to making use of this abattoir. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 24-13(5): Post Division Contract Commitments

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Premier, Mr. Morin. Mr. Speaker, on more than one occasion we have been advised that any contracts which have a life after Nunavut and which, are applicable to Nunavut would require the consent of the Interim Commissioner. I believe that this is quite a responsibility of this government to ensure this specific requirement is met. Therefore I will be asking the Premier if he will assure the House that any contracts or other commitments made by this

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government which would have an effect on Nunavut after division have the express consent of the Interim Commissioner before they proceed? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 24-13(5): Post Division Contract Commitments

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members are well aware, government must continue its work as we move towards the creation of two new territories on

April 1, 1999. One of the issues we have to address is the whole issue of contracts, as well as the government employees of the Northwest Territories that may be transferred to the eastern Arctic. On the whole contract issue and whether it would be for capital projects or infrastructure or whatever that after April 1, 1999, we are presently right now, Mr. Speaker, working with the Interim Commissioner for Nunavut to come to a protocol agreement with his office, so that they would find a protocol agreement with ourselves. I believe the federal government is also involved. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Question period is over. Before we continue any further, I would like say a few words.

I know during the Fourth Session, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures gave its support to the Speaker to strictly apply the rules and guidelines for oral question period.

I have had a concern for sometime about the tone and manner of questioning some Members have adopted lately. Ministers have also managed to capture my attention with the tone and manner of some of their responses. We must remember that we are all honourable Members, elected to this position by our constituents. Our action inside the House reflects on this institution and our constituents. If we do not conduct ourselves in a respectful manner, this will reflect badly on the people who elected us as their representatives. I ask that Members keep this in mind and respect the rules and procedures of this House and each other, not only during question period but in all debates during sessions and outside sessions.

--Applause

Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. O'Brien.

**ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

Tabled Document 2-13(5): Letter from Kivalliq Inuit Association Regarding Keewatin Region Health Care Services

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a letter received from Mr. Paplujek, president of the Keewatin Association, regarding their extreme concerns over the Keewatin Health Care system.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. O'Brien.

Tabled Document 3-13(5): Letter from the Hamlet of Arviat Regarding the Proposed Fuel Resupply Pipeline

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

I would like to table a document from the hamlet of Arviat a motion that has passed concerning their concern regarding the proposed fuel resupply pipeline extensions. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Consideration of Mid-Term Revenue and Tabled Document 1-13(5) Mid-Term Review documents.

By the authority given the Speaker by resolution 3-13(5), I will resolve you into committee of the whole until the committee is prepared to report. Therefore, you are resolved in the committee of the whole. With Mr. Ningark in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I would like to call the committee to order.

Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters, we have two items: consideration of Mid-Term Review, Tabled Document 1-13(5) Mid-Term Review Documents. We are dealing with two items. At this time I would like to make an opening remark.

The item under consideration is the mid-term review of the 13th Legislative Assembly. As Members are aware, the following motion was passed in the territorial leadership committee on Monday, November 29, 1995, and I quote:

"That the territorial leadership committee agrees that after two years there shall be a mid-term review where the Premier and Members of Cabinet shall report to and be accountable to Members of the Legislature on progress to date and plans for the remainder of the term of the 13th Legislative Assembly".

The process for this mid-term review was approved by all Members of the Legislative Assembly and has been circulated. I will briefly summarize the process and purpose of the review for the benefit of our interested viewers and constituents.

As noted in the motion two years ago, the main purpose of this review is to examine the progress of the Legislative Assembly since our term began and to critically assess our current direction and plans for the remainder of the 13th Assembly.

Efforts in committee of the whole today and tomorrow will therefore focus on our successes in terms of achieving the goals we had set and identifying those areas where we may have fallen short or not succeeded to the extent we could have.

The purpose of any review is to look back to critically evaluate past performance in an effort to define any corrective actions necessary to meet future needs. Therefore, the objective of this review, as Members have agreed, is to determine if, and to what extent, this Legislature needs to refocus its efforts in

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specific areas and revise or refine its direction and goals for the second half of our term.

Having briefly described the nature and purpose of the review, I will now outline the process that has been agreed to. I trust this process will afford all Members the ability to make comments and to ask questions of the Executive Council.

Firstly, we have tabled and moved into committee of the whole a package entitled Mid-term Review Documents, which contains:

"Building a Foundation For the Future - the Northwest Territories Agenda for Change"; Principles for Division; and A Chronological Summary of Hansard Excerpts Dealing with the Development of the Government's Agenda.

Your chairpersons for this review will be myself, along with two deputy chairs of the committee of the whole on a rotational basis.

Following my opening comments, all Members will be given the opportunity to make general comments of 10 minutes each in the order that they are recognized by the chair.

After general comments, every Minister in turn will be expected to respond to Member's questions relating to their portfolios and responsibilities. Each Member will be entitled to make a maximum of eight questions directed to each Minister. Questions may deal with one topic or eight different topics, but every question will be counted as a question, including those seeking clarification. I will also remind Members that the question must deal with matters that would responsibly be within the present knowledge of the Minister to whom it is directed and not of a technical nature requiring a detailed response. The order of the Ministers has been previously established with the Premier being first and the other Minister determined by a ballot draw conducted by the Clerk at the Legislative Assembly.

After the Premier, the order of Ministers is as follows:

The Honourable Kelvin Ng

The Honourable John Todd

The Honourable Stephen Kakfwi

The Honourable Manikot Thompson

The Honourable Jim Antoine

The Honourable Goo Arlooktoo; and finally

The Honourable Charles Dent

At the conclusion of the questioning of Ministers, all Members, including Ministers will be provided an opportunity of not more than ten minutes each to speak to the future direction of this Legislature, which may include suggestions for the revision or refinement of goals, principles or the common agenda.

I should note as well that it has been agreed by all Members that this review will extend over a two day period. Given the time required for an adequate review it may be necessary to extend our normal sitting hours today and tomorrow in order to conclude this item within the agreed upon timeframe. As your Chair, I would suggest that today's discussions

proceed at least to the halfway point of the review, which would be to complete the questioning of four of the eight Ministers. As always, however, this will be subject to the will of the committee.

Just before we get started, I would like to remind Members that, while the Chair may allow Members some latitude in the content of speeches and questions, here in committee of the whole, the rules and procedures of the Legislative Assembly shall be observed where applicable. The Chair will expect all Members to conduct themselves in a manner respectful of all their colleagues and the dignity of this House. With that, I will now open the floor to general comments of ten minutes each by all Members.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I open my remarks today by thanking all the Members for taking time to look back at what we have accomplished to date and to talk about what as an Assembly we have left to do. I am going into this review process with a clear and open mind as I see this as an opportunity to have a healthy and productive discussion. All Members of Cabinet are looking forward to hearing what you have to say. Eighteen months ago as a group we agreed to an agenda for change. That has been used to guide the decisions and actions of this government. Times have changed since we first set that plan. We have refined and refocused our priorities to reflect those changes.

Division, however, remains the same. We have secured the financial future and are now actively working to improve our economic conditions. We are improving the social conditions in the north by focusing our priorities on children and youth and by making improvements in the education system. We are working at all levels of government to give more control in decision making powers to our communities. We are shifting health care so our focus is more on prevention than treatment. We have amalgamated government departments to make them more efficient and cost effective. We are working with all of our partners to ensure we have a successful and smooth transition with the creation of Nunavut and Western Territory. We are taking action on aboriginal issues through self-government negotiations and social initiatives. We are working to take control of our own future, and we are being heard at the national level. We have all come a long, long way.

We have accomplished more than we could have thought possible and we can be proud of that, but more importantly we should recognize what can be done when we work together. When I ran for Premier, I made it clear, I felt the Premier of the Northwest Territories has to be a team leader, and I am honoured to lead a very dedicated Cabinet team. Finance Minister, John Todd, has shown a willingness to lead us through some very tough decisions that have allowed us to balance our budget and secure our future. He never hesitates to speak out either with Cabinet and House colleagues or with his federal counterparts to protect the interests of the north. He has often taken a great deal of personal criticism in the process, but lucky for us all, John is like the energizer bunny. He just keeps going and going and going.

--Laughter

When Manitok Thompson arrived at her first Cabinet meeting, she appeared to me to be a little bit nervous. But I have seen her grow in her role as the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and in her role as the Women Secretariat. She has tackled the community empowerment initiative. She has demonstrated she is a true leader, and we should all be proud to have her as a Member of the Cabinet team.

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Our Deputy Premier, Goo Arlooktoo, is another new kid on the block, but he is wise beyond his years. As a new Cabinet Minister, Goo probably wondered what he got himself into, but he has come to fit the role as if he was born to it. He is a quick learner. He listens to everything and everyone. I have watched him grow to become one of the strongest leaders in the north, and he has only just begun.

Kelvin Ng, carries one of the most challenging loads of all the Ministers. Still with all of the issues we face in Health and Social Services and in Justice, he continues to work and a lot of work without complaint. His genuine caring for people combined with his sharp business sense has made him the right Minister for those two departments at this time. He has great insight and deep compassion and he understands he may have to make some decisions that may be unpopular with a few in order to improve the quality of life for all.

Charles Dent, is a Member of Cabinet team who has been a solid performer through thick and thin. He has

never let the government down and never let me down. He is often the voice of reason when we are dealing with difficult issues. He helps us find the middle ground, the compromise that helps bring parties together. His sense of fairness can also be seen in the work he is doing to improve income support system and to increase opportunities for our children and youth.

Jim Antoine, is a little young to be an elder, but if he speaks, he always has a message behind his words. He handles himself with a great deal of honour, and he commands the respect of people who work with him. In his role as co-chair of the Constitutional Working Group, he has helped to build consensus in a wide range of groups and opinions. Jim has been juggling some difficult complex files, but through his patience and persistent attitude, he is making a difference and he will make a substantial progress in the long run.

Finally, Steve Kakfwi is known to many of us for his passion and expertise on constitutional issues. While he continues to give us a perception on these issues in his role with Cabinet over the past two years, Steve has also shown us another side to himself. He has overseen the amalgamation of three major departments, and he is now part of a dynamic team to make sure diamonds are this government's best friend. No matter what Steve is working on, he is still out there negotiating and challenging people's thinking. Of course, now he sometimes negotiates with the caribou and the polar bear.

As a whole the Members of Cabinet have tried to listen and do everything possible within our fiscal reality. A big part of that listening process has come through the valuable working relationship we have with the standing committees. The standing committee structure is a different level of team work that helps us ensure that we are making the right decisions. In the true spirit of consensus government working at the committee level no matter how far apart we begin on some issues, we always work to find a compromise and to ensure our decision is the best one possible for our people. From there we take our decisions to the next level, that is as a team of leaders in this Legislative Assembly to do what is right to best serve our citizens. Building on our team work as an Assembly, there is one important other team, the Public Service of the Northwest Territories who through their hard work help put our plans in place and move ahead. I think it is important we recognize and acknowledge their efforts and dedication. Overall I know that some of you may not agree with some of

the decisions we have made or with the way we have done things, but there are no right and wrong answers. We can only do what we believe is the right thing at the right time and I believe the thing is that we respect each other and continue to trust in each other just as our constituents trusted in us.

Since I became Premier two years ago, I have only one regret that is that I do not have the amount of time I would like to visit and to listen to my people. Every time I go home to my riding, I hear what we are doing right and what we need to change and that has helped to guide me. I would like to thank the people of Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e for their ongoing support. In closing I would like to add that in general we do not have enough time or for that matter enough money to do all of the things that we would like to do. Two years ago we faced an uphill battle at all levels, economically, socially, and politically. While we still have much to do, we are winning the war, and we are making a difference. We have 18 months of hard work left, but April 1, 1999, will be a day of celebration for all of us if we continue to work together as partners in this Legislative Assembly with the Public Service and more importantly with the people we serve.

Just in closing, Mr. Chairman, I want for those new Members who were elected two years ago, none of you would believe how much you have accomplished with this government as all 24 Members. Never in the history of the Legislative Assembly, in any Legislative Assembly, would be able to accomplish what we have in the last two years. So I encourage Members to continue to work together, represent your people, with that I look forward to this review. Mahsi. Thank you.

--Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Premier. The Chair would like to recognize Mr. Ootes who is the chair of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good government for all the people. That is what this is all about. First I will make some comments as co-chair of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, a position I share with my honourable colleague, Mr. Barnabas. Then, I will make some personal remarks. A mid-term review is an important accountability tool for this Legislative Assembly. It provides all Members a chance to consider what this government has achieved, how it

can improve on its performance and what ought to be the priority for the next two years. No doubt this will be a time consuming process today and tomorrow, but we are all dedicated to this effort in order to set the direction for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to discuss the contribution Ordinary Members have made. They are proud of their contributions and accomplishments. One of the main features of the 13th Legislative Assembly is the increased role of standing committees. The introduction of a strengthened committee system for this Assembly has created a more collective decision-making structure. Standing committees play an integral part in the budgetary process by reviewing and tabling reports on departmental business plans, legislation and policy issues in general.

Members of standing committees have developed a unique expertise on the issues that face the government and are able

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to provide input on the future direction. For example, the standing committee on social matters in reviewing the family law bill were able to get important changes made to the bill in order to address the concerns of both committee Members and the public. Ordinary Members were able to convince the government that amalgamation of the Housing Corporation and the Department of Transportation and Public Works and Services was being rushed and ought to be deferred. Mr. Speaker, Ordinary Members have often spoken against government policy but also in support of Cabinet policy and direction. As an example, Members supported this government's efforts to eliminate the deficit. While there may have been differing view points on the method this government has addressed the deficit, Members have recognized the importance in securing the financial future of the Northwest Territories. Ordinary Members have made the government more accountable for its hiring practices as well as place pressure on government to change its reporting system on contracts.

Cabinet deserves praise for the heavy agenda it undertook at the beginning of its mandate. There has been many successes over the last two years such as the elimination of the deficit as only one of many examples and I congratulate them. I, in turn, think that Cabinet has to recognize, and I am sure they do, the successes have not been done in isolation. As the Premier stated earlier, the important contribution



Ordinary Members have made in those achievements that have been brought about.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words on a personal basis about my concern as MLA for Yellowknife Centre. Learning how to become an effective MLA takes time. As my honourable colleague from Hay River said in this House last week, there is little that can adequately prepare one for the barrage of personal and professional adjustments required to fulfil this role. It has been a very steep learning curve. I, like my colleagues, am now more educated about the process. As a result, I can be more effective in my role representing my constituency. I have made 78 statements, asked 116 formal questions, made eight motions and filed eight petitions.

As I look to the future, I do have many issues I am convinced this government has to address. We are rolling along at break neck speed. At the start of this Assembly, this government introduced an agenda for change that had ten priorities and principles. This resulted in many changes to the makeup and operation of this government. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult sometimes in our day to day responsibilities as MLAs attending sessions, committee meetings, dealing with constituency matters and other official duties to take a moment and reflect a broader level of how government is performing. How do we, in fact, know if this government is performing well? I learned long ago, that change does not necessarily mean things are for the better. Lots of changes have been made, and we must be analytical of those changes and be prepared to take corrective action if warranted. For example, this government does need to do and review an analysis to identify operational difficulties and problems in such program areas as the amalgamation of Resources, Wildlife and Development, community empowerment, the elimination of the personal secretariat are only three examples. There are, no doubt, many benefits to what we have done. There may also be huge shortcomings. As for the future, we desperately need to deal with issues such as forced growth in the social envelope area, a substance abuse strategy, more emphasis on jobs, to name only several.

Personal issues of concern to me, as a Yellowknife representative, are violence in the downtown Yellowknife area. I think this government needs to take a more proactive approach to crime prevention by increasing its liquor inspections; early detection of breast cancer screening. Frankly, I was disappointed with the response I received in that area and I would

like the government to address this area more seriously. In addition, I would like the government to pay attention to such organizations as the NWT Medical Association when they submit reports to this government in response to their reports.

On the economic front, I believe this government and the federal government should continue to ensure every effort to make sure that a detailed sorting and diamond valuation be done in the north. A priority for me is to see that positions within the federal government that are located in the south be transferred to the north if those positions deal with matters in the north.

On division, Mr. Speaker, I want to see a smooth transition in the creation of two new territories. But we must have a commitment from the federal government that they will expeditiously reimburse this government for transitional costs to bring about division. This will take a total of about \$50 million out of our cashflow in the next two years. We need to ease the uncertainty division has created with staff in Yellowknife and immediately identify those positions that will be affected by possible transfer. There are many other issues. I think that all Members of this House, share the conviction that we have an obligation to do all that we can to improve the way this government conducts business for all residents of the Northwest Territories.

Therefore, I believe that all MLAs must be listened to with sensitively as they bring their thoughts as well as the views of their constituents forward in questioning Members of Cabinet. Mr. Speaker, in conclusion I will be looking to improve accountability by seeing whether the government is meeting their publicly stated commitments and how they follow upon motions passed in this House. There has been occasion where Cabinet, I feel, has ignored motions or part of motions passed by Ordinary Members, thus in my opinion, ignoring the legitimate concerns of individual MLAs. For example, I have not had a satisfactory action on the motion passed this spring for the government to develop a policy on non-competitive contracts. Mr. Speaker, it is important, as I said, for Cabinet to be sensitive to our comments because that is just a reflection of what our constituents are saying.

It behooves us, as Ordinary Members, to remain to be the voice of sober second thought to the government. Otherwise, I fear, we will not bring about the kind of good government the people of the north deserve.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I enjoy being in this Legislative Assembly, and I appreciate the many good working relationships we have and I hope that can continue. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. I sat three steps lower than, the Speaker's Chair, so I am a Chairman not a Speaker. We have Mr. Ed Picco. However,

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we will take a 15 minute break and Mr. Picco will be the first one on the list to speak. Thank you.

--Break

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I would like to call the committee back to order. We have Mr. Ed Picco, honourable Member for Iqaluit.

**MR. PICCO:**

I would like to wait for the Premier, Mr. Chairman. Where is the Premier? I want him to hear me.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

As a rule, of the committee and the rule of the House, any Member cannot refer to the action of another Member. In this forum, we do not need a quorum to begin on questioning and making Member's comments. If the honourable Member for Iqaluit wishes to defer his speaking note, we will recognize another Member. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, honourable fans across the floor there. Over the past two years, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and specifically the 13th Assembly, has faced many challenges. The Agenda for Change was a map to give an idea where as an Assembly, we as a government wanted to go. The first plank on this road was to balance the budget and provide a secure financial future heading into division. No one, Mr. Chairman, understood or contemplated the depth of the problem we faced. With the guidance of the Finance Minister and the Cabinet, with the new committee structure and the public service, we have begun to see the light. However, that balancing act of the government has not been without its collateral

damage and pitfalls. The issue of division, of assets and liabilities, of legislative amendments, of fiscal uncertainty has caused much concern and will need the cooperation of all Members to bring it about with the proper resources in place. The Premier will be key in providing the leadership and bringing understanding of the issues and avoid, Mr. Chairman, avoid an east/west in-fighting as April 1, 1999 gets closer.

Mr. Chairman, as Premier, Mr. Morin has always been available to me, as an MLA, to voice my concerns. Mr. Morin, this past summer, came to Iqaluit to tour the community and see first hand those concerns I have raised. I congratulate him for that. The Premier has also contacted me at home in Iqaluit on issues and has asked for my opinion. I thank him for that. The Premier has to lead by example and accept the accolades and the criticisms. I have tried to articulate my concerns with the process of government. The seemingly intrepid way that the government spends the taxpayers' money, to awarding of contracts, and hopefully bringing about more accountability. The government's use of policies and the seemingly broad interpretation of said policies is a major concern. The continued teeth-pulling exercise of asking questions in this House with flippant and nondescript answers is not acceptable.

The Premier, in response to oral questions, very often drags out his answers, like yesterday, so that he wears out the question period time clock. That is not acceptable. Charges asking and demanding for ministerial resignations, answered with a deafening silence, is not acceptable. Public money, spent for the public good, has to be transparent and accountable. The publishing of sole sourced and negotiated contracts by the Premier is to be congratulated. But the number of major sole sourced contracts continues to be of concern. The emergence of RFPs guided by yes by those same policies is not acceptable. Our labour relations, staff morale, our continued stalling with pay equity, and finally a court decision to put us at the table was not acceptable. The Public Service Act that, in my opinion, was wrong and draconian, needs to be amended to allow real free collective bargaining. This has to be addressed.

When you, as an MLA, try to articulate these and other points, you are treated with disdain. The Premier should be guiding his Cabinet in a more open and accountable process. The continued response of all meet with the Member or provide a briefing to the Member is a poor excuse for making information available to the majority of the Northwest Territories

residents. I think the electorate sees that type of fudging, yes fudging, Mr. Chairman, of information and accountability for what it is - a farce.

Our record on Affirmative Action and northern hiring has had much publicity for not doing what the policy outlines. Mr. Chairman, the Premier has to work on making this government more open and transparent. The innuendo of ongoing RCMP investigations, of sole sourced contracts awarded to friends, of jobs being filled through nepotistic means, has to end.

The government is being painted fairly, or unfairly, in the public eye, as greedy and seemingly underhanded. That is not acceptable. Mr. Chairman, on many issues like the deficit, division, economic policies, we have made progress. But the issues of accountability, transparency, labour relations, staff morale, we have received a failing grade, and Mr. Chairman, I say we because I am part of this 24th Assembly. Later today, I am very pleased to be eligible and able, in this House, to ask eight questions of the Premier, which I will use to the full extent of that power given to me as a legislator.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, when a Member stands to ask a question or asks for clarification on an issue, that person should be seen with the respect that they deserve when they are asking those questions, not to be painted as some type of PR-grabbing, grandstanding, soap-box character. Innuendo of that type is cheap, and the Premier should be dictating and asking his colleagues and Cabinet to refrain from that type of behaviour. If there is one thing I have noticed for two years now on this side of the House is that the cat-calls have seemed to be a little louder, as demonstrated a few minutes earlier. I think the Premier should take a leadership role and to direct those Members on his side of the House that have been doing that, to stop. That would be a first good step in the way that this government is looked at.

On the second point, Mr. Chairman, the Premier, at different times, because he is accountable to the whole Assembly, because he was elected by the majority of Members in this House, to serve in the role of Premier, using his experience as legislator, he knows what it is like to be on the Ordinary Members' side of the House. I do not have the opportunity to have two or three aids to help with questions. I do try to use the research, the committee. But it is a tough balancing act between writing statements, questions, meeting with Ministers, and asking for information for what I think are the good reasons. If anyone in their right mind in this Assembly took an opportunity to

read the Hansard to see where the questions have come from this individual, they come from all avenues of the Northwest Territories. It is from environmental issues to health issues to other concerns.

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When I read the Hansard, I am proud of the questions that I have asked. I do not think they should be ridiculed because of the number of those questions, because that is what I am here to do, Mr. Chairman, is to ask questions in this House. It does not matter how many numbers. If my colleagues on the OMC side have a feeling that we are asking too many questions, I wrote the rules in the committee to ask for the ability to extend question period. Although that was voted down in the committee, I feel fine with that. But my point is, if you get the correct answers, you do not have to ask five questions if you get the answer that you want. You only have to ask one question to get that correct answer. That is where the Premier should be directing his Cabinet colleagues to do that. More accountability, more transparency, with the Aurora Investment Fund, which I will have the chance to ask Mr. Todd about later. Those types of things should come publicly forward. Thank you.

--Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. General comments from the Members. Any further general comments from the Members before we get into questions? Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the two years that I have become a Member representing the Mackenzie Delta, there has been time and time again that I wonder exactly if anyone is listening in relation to my concerns and issues that I have raised in the last two years, especially in areas such as health, the well-being of the residents; also in regard to the cuts that have been made, especially in relation to the Mackenzie Delta; things such as the Knute Lang Camp, closure to Delta House, Tl'oondih healing program; concerns in regard to the water supply in Fort McPherson; the whole idea of infrastructure in my riding, especially the concern in relation to the Chief Julius School that was destroyed by fire almost two years ago; regarding the assistance of the departments to assist my region, especially in the areas that I listed and especially in regard to the health and well-being of those residents.

I think that, for myself, I find it awfully frustrating, especially when time and time again you think you are making some progress by passing motions in the committee of the whole and having the Premier stand up making statements that you will assist me along with the different Ministers from Social Services and area in regards to the TI'oondih healing program. At the end, it seemed to all fall on deaf ears, and basically the decisions are made that jeopardize the whole process.

The same thing in regard to the gymnasium in Fort McPherson, for the Chief Julius School, it is another issue where I thought there was a commitment made by this government to assist the community along with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs; by the Minister of Finance and also the Premier, along with the Department of Education to assist in the area of allowing the community the flexibility to move specific projects and capital and basically used to pay for the conclusion in construction of the full-sized gymnasium.

In regard to the decision by the Department of Justice, in regard to the Knute Lang Camp in Aklavik, in which there was a commitment made by the previous Minister to allow that project to go forth, and then the commitment was cancelled. Where you see alternative sources of funding were issued for similar projects, but allocated to other areas and not allowing Aklavik the same opportunity in regard to those funds to conclude the proposal that was put forth to the Minister.

Regarding the whole area of community empowerment, the whole negotiation process, giving communities more power in relation to the negotiations, transfers to communities; I am talking specifically about Aklavik, in which Aklavik has been in this endeavour for a number of years, almost four years, negotiating certain projects, regarding the elders facility, looking at transfers of programs and services. Yet at the present time they find themselves in limbo because there were no funds available to the community to negotiate the adequate resources to hire and to be able to have the people do research and conclude those negotiations with the limited resources they have received. At the present time because of the new criteria that is being used to negotiate so called community empowerment initiatives, they find themselves without the resources that they need to conclude those negotiations and to carry on the progress that has been made to date.

In the area that I spoke a lot about, in relation to the health and well-being of community members and in regard to issues I bring up in this House - suicide, alcoholism, drug abuse; I think sometimes it would make you wonder if the Members and the Premier feel it is a concern or is it basically there are more important things out there than the health and well-being of our residents when it comes to the whole issue of health. In order to have strong and economic regions, you have to have healthy people.

In regard to the economic potential we have in the Mackenzie Delta, which is pretty close to nil, that sometimes we see what is happening in other areas in regard to capital projects, regarding negotiations that is going on between the federal government, Government of the Northwest Territories, mining companies, oil and gas companies, lumber companies and we make ourselves wonder exactly when will we see some of these economic spin offs arrive at our doorstep?

I think in order to be fair to all areas, all regions and all people in the Northwest Territories, we have to allow the government and the programs to be delivered in such a way that is adequately and sufficiently distributed to everyone.

Regarding the health and well-being of the people in the Northwest Territories, we hear about the alcohol and drug programs being cut. There was the big debate of the \$2 million being taken out of the Inuvik Regional Health Board budget. Also in regard to the number of people laid off in our particular region, in regard to government employees, the whole area; I have asked a lot of questions on, especially in relation to this government was the area in regard to health programs, TI'oondih Healing Society, Tetlit'zheh construction, capital projects in the Northwest Territories, the way they have been allocated. Funds have been used to build capital projects. The whole idea of aboriginal rights and treaty rights, regarding the northern accord process, which we were told was a priority of this government; in two years it has basically come to a standstill.

For my region, my riding, that is one area where we see the possibility of having potential. Especially in light of the only real renewable resource that we have in regard to oil and gas. That has been proven. Without a northern accord agreement, we

feel that the obligations that fall within certain land claim agreements and also the uncertainty it leaves to not only government but to industry, that we have to somehow fulfil this obligation and conclude it as soon as possible. But to date, nothing has been done.

The biggest concern I have in relation to this government, in particular the area of Department of Health and Social Services. I have raised issues time and time again in regard to the health and well-being of the residents of the Mackenzie Delta with no real progress in any of those particular areas. Sometimes I wonder why? Is it because of myself as the individual representing that area or the lack of obligation from that department to my particular region? In regard to the health and well-being of the people I represent, I think it is critical at this time, we have the resources and the infrastructure there. I do not see why we do not have the flexibility we see in other areas, especially when it comes to capital allocation and distribution and supplementary appropriations, where money is found which basically seems to float out of the air to do things; but when it comes to the health and well-being of my riding, it seems to be a real disgrace in regard to the way I have been dealt with in the last two years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. General comments from, we have Mr. Henry next.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our task over the next two days is to articulate our views, support and concern for actions taken in the past two years, by this government. It has often been said in this House that we are a consensus government and that all the Members, through the committee structure work, have input into and ability to influence the government's agenda.

While this is true, I believe the public should have a better understanding of how this input works. The vast majority of legislation and action of this government is direction generated by Cabinet. When the Cabinet takes a position on a topic or item, it is very seldom that they are given the freedom to oppose that position or topic. So, when the government introduces legislation or direction on a new initiative, it already has eight votes of support. More importantly, it also has a complete bureaucracy along with funds to hire consultants, to analyze and provide support to their initiative. These resource greatly influence the

manner in which a position is presented and sold to the public and MLAs of this Legislature. In turn, this greatly reduces the ability of ordinary MLAs to muster any opposition to challenge and effectively question the government on its position.

As for the 14 Ordinary Members, we have a staff of three to research, explore different options, support or object to the government's legislation. When one Member opposes a piece of legislation or government direction, they start off from a position of one, compared to the Cabinet's solid eight. It is almost an insurmountable task when one looks at the chances of being able, through votes, to man a successful campaign of opposition against the government that starts off with eight votes. In my two years in this Legislature, only once has there been a unanimous stand taken by Ordinary Members, which succeeded in having the government drop a direction or piece of legislation.

I will continue with the evaluation of how this government has performed over the past two years. I, for one, do not see much reason or justification for severely criticizing this government's course of action since the Assembly came in. Individual Members and individual action certainly deserve constructive criticism, but the overall work of the government, at least in the eyes of my constituency that I represent, are in most cases, applauded.

When I ran for election, one of my planks on my platform was fiscal responsibility. I wanted to ensure and I vowed to work to ensure a government who is fiscally responsible and not continuing on a drunken sailor spending way, as previous governments had. This government has come through in flying colours from what my constituents have indicated. Although the government did receive much criticism regarding the method which they chose to arrive at that point.

The government's bureaucracy and related agencies paid the price for this method. I would like to have seen the same end accomplished by the elimination of some of the programs and services. I have much concern that now that the bureaucracy has, for the most part been decimated, we will not have the staff to provide all the services we have committed to providing to the people of the Northwest Territories.

Another area which this government deserves compliment is when I look at a very good mark in this area of professional leadership from a moral and common decency point of view. This government has not, in the past two years, had one case of scandal,

which is, I believe, a record in the recent past of this territory. We have not elected a Minister to Cabinet, in the last two years who has resigned or been forced to resign because of any alleged improprieties or inability to perform at a level demanded by the Cabinet position. Congratulations.

As for where the government has not been successful would be as follows: the diamond opportunity. Immediate attention should be given to writing of a policy, which should be generated by Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development for a viewing by Members of this House, clearly stating this government's position on diamond valuation and sorting. It should include a list of other activities that can be performed by and for the benefits of the residents of the Northwest Territories.

If we cannot provide to Minister Stewart, a clear, written, concise document, laying out these requirements for the Northwest Territories' people, then this government is sadly missing the boat. We can, we hope, influence Minister Stewart. How can we hope to influence Minister Stewart on the political merits of ensuring the residents of the Northwest Territories should be taken into account first, and supersede the interests of the industry regarding our nonrenewable resource? This opportunity can and should not be allowed to escape us.

Med-Emerg Report: This report consisted of a compilation of information and statistics that has been prepared in previous reports and is available through the Department of Health, along with statistical information that any resident of the Northwest Territories can obtain from this government.

Mr. Ng has taken a large amount of criticism, both in the House and outside, on this waste of three quarters of a million dollars of taxpayers' money. The general public, the NWT Health Care Association, the Department of Health staff, consultants in the Northwest Territories and MLAs have all

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denounced this report. Mr. Ng's department has been criticized for wastage of taxpayers money on this Med-Emerg report. The Minister of Finance, while being lavishly credited with the financial health the government finds itself in, has also spent many dollars investigating the feasibility of setting up a mortgage investment fund. The implementing of this fund was not pursued by the Minister because we were told the banks were now lending money in

communities where they traditionally had not. Mr. Arlooktoo, on behalf of the government, introduced Plan 2000, which was designed to get as many public housing tenants as possible out of public housing units and into their own homes. This has no semblance of reality in the real world, and this is another example of how this government has not helped educate the people of the Northwest Territories to deal with the process and trials of all other Canadians. The department of Municipal and Community Affairs continues to pour money into community empowerment initiative, which by the governments' own admission, has not worked as well as it should have for the amounts of dollars spent.

The Infrastructure Committee, on a number of occasions, had requested this initiative, although commendable, should have not occurred at the speed the government set. We suggest it would have been more appropriate to identify three or four taxed-based communities who had a desire to become more empowered. Work with them and perfect a method which could be cloned and used in other communities. The Community Empowerment Initiatives should be stopped until the government finds itself in a better financial situation or until there is a strong desire for the communities to take on the initiative. The government, through the Department of Education, in last year's budget process, played with the feelings of our seniors and holding out as long as possible against Members of this House who wanted to ensure that our seniors were able to obtain a small amount of money to enable them to receive support for heating fuel. I feel comfortable, as the department tallied up the cost of recruitment, salary and separation pay of the previous six months deputy minister, the department went a long way to paying the cost for the seniors' fuel subsidy.

The Department of Transportation privatized some components of motor vehicles. The last time I heard the merits of privatization stunk, it was on the benefits that private business could provide the service cheaper than the government. This very clearly was not the intent of that privatization, as now the service costs much more than when the government provided it. So why it costing more? The government is obtaining the same fee for the service that it provided in the past which is now being provided by the contractor. The public is being provided a good service while the government is skimming \$400,000 annually off on salary and related office cost savings.

It is obvious that the Government of the Northwest Territories has lived up to and delivered on their

responsibilities in the division process. The federal government, who initiated this process by passing their own Act, clearly has demonstrated they have not lived up to their commitment to the people of Nunavut and the Western Territory. The reality will soon become apparent to those people that the federal government has not honoured their commitments.

In closing, as was stated earlier in my remarks, I believe this government has done a good overall job in some of the most trying times in the evolution of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. General comments. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During my first two years in the position I hold as a representative for Inuvik, I have, on many occasions, raised what some would call the human factor in running government. But I think that, as a government, we need to keep going back to that issue. We need to remember who we are here to represent. As we started out in the 13th Assembly, the road to a healthier financial future, healthier children and a better outlook on life, we have worked together on what we called building a foundation for the future of the Northwest Territories' Agenda for Change. During the Territorial Leadership Committee, many Members spoke about this process and the need to measure how far we have come and how far we have yet to go.

Mr. Chairman, as I look through a number of the visions and the main points we set during the early days of the 13th Assembly, I look at some of these, and I say that we have come a long way in a number of areas. But we have many miles yet to travel. There are ten items we named as a vision for the future, the secure financial future to improve social conditions, improve economic conditions, empower communities, work towards community wellness, develop a more effective and efficient government structure, make Nunavut and the Western Territory a reality, take action on aboriginal issues, take control of our own future and be heard at the national level.

Mr. Chairman, these are all great ideas and great for heading down a new road or a new direction. But until there is an implementation plan and something starts to be done, they are just slogans. Now I say we have done well in a number of areas, securing our

financial future. We have seen the books balanced, not an easy job, as many of us came to understand when we returned to our communities after making decisions in this forum to see the impact over a number of years especially being a representative in the community of Inuvik where we have already undergone reductions through other sources.

Improving social conditions - have we improved social conditions? We have named a number of plans. We have heard of strategic plans, saying we were going to give more control to the communities, and we have done so. So I think we are on the right track, but there is much yet to be done. How do we qualify improving social conditions? How can we be held accountable to saying we have improved social conditions? It is a very broad term, and without an action plan to implement changes, once again I say it is in the area of discussion of more reports and more studies. We need to see an implementation plan. We need to act on those.

Improving economic conditions. Mr. Chairman, the latest survey that I have available suggests that in the Northwest Territories, in 1994, we had a percentage of unemployed in the area of 17 percent. Can we measure that off? In two years have we tackled any of that? Have we lowered unemployment in the Northwest Territories? We have heard, and I have asked questions recently about the economic panel that the Premier started up. It was discussed a bit in the

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document under improving conditions. But we need to see results. We need something we can take as legislators to the people and say, these are some of the things we will implement that will not only give big business an opportunity, but the small guy who does not have a high school education, who does not have a degree in business but has all the qualifications of living a lifestyle and living a long lifestyle in the north. We need to make those opportunities available. So a fellow who has travelled the river, hunted many years and raised his family on that can take that ability and make a living with it and not have to pay a big business to allow him to do that.

Empowering communities, we have heard that it has been a good idea. Many people want the ability to take control of their future and make decisions that would impact them. As I have said, they are the best ones that would know how to make reductions in their areas. But at the same time, we must learn from the

past. Let us not force change. If the communities are not ready for it, let us not tell them they have to take it. We have done that in the past and we have had it done to us. We always seem to come back to terms like downloading, unloading, right sizing, downsizing, you name it. Let us learn from the past.

We have heard about government being more effective and efficient. I think we have gone a long way in getting more dollars out to the communities and the programs and services. But we still have to clear up the workload that is left behind by those that still have to do the remainder of work that is left. We have not reduced that workload as of today, that I am aware of. For example, the person in FMBS that is filling out all the records of employment in the last pay cheque. Yes, Mr. Todd, we need to clear up some of those lines in the workload.

In making Nunavut and the Western Territory a reality, we state in this document that the federal government must commit itself to where it stands regarding aboriginal self-government, incremental and transitional costs for creating both the new territories, and we say it must be done. The political aspirations of the people of both new territories cannot be denied.

Until we have a commitment from the federal government, I must ask you a question, is it the aspirations or the needs that government should be looking at? I have said it earlier on in my time in the Assembly, that we need to make sure that this does not happen on the backs of those who cannot afford it, both east and west. So we need that commitment to move ahead in an orderly fashion. We have heard that discussed many times in many meetings. We need that commitment, and soon.

Taking control of our own future. Has there been any movement on that issue? I am not aware of it. We have talked about moving control north. Have we done that? We need to focus on those issues. What can we do, not what we cannot do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. General comments. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I too came here two years ago as a kind of a naive person, to say the least. I expected and was going to make some

major changes to the way we do things. I was under the impression that all of us had the same ambitions and we intended to create a government with a new way of doing things.

Mr. Chairman, it took me about six months to find out that I was just dreaming. There was no new way of doing things. In fact, we found out that most of the government policies were not put forward to us to consider it to be changed at the time when we were doing our original review. I recall requesting that these policies be put for discussion purposes, but it never happened. I was under the impression, and I still am, that unless you change the policies of a government or of a business or anything and you do not make any changes, you are just going to continue following in the same old rut. As a matter of fact, it did not take us long to find out that there were contracts in place that we could have no input on because they had a life of five years. Those contracts basically identified how this whole government operates. Because they were major contracts. They are still there.

I do not wish to sound like I am always downsizing the government all the time, but I will say that we did so fine, we did balance the budget. That is over and done with, good. Let us forget it. Let us move on to other things. We have prepared for division. We have gone as far as we can go, as far as I am concerned. From now on, the federal government is going to have to do something. So let us forget that issue too.

What is the next item we had on the agenda? I suggested it was Economic Opportunities. But have we done anything about that? That is the one issue that I feel could probably address a lot of issues, including the social issues.

In addressing the economic opportunities of the territories, we should look at the haves and the have not areas. For instance, with all the development going on in Nunavut right now creating a new government, I am not sure there is any shortage of jobs down there any more. I am also hearing there is no shortage of jobs in Norman Wells. I am also hearing that there is no shortage of jobs in Yellowknife because of the big mines. Maybe this government should be directing their economic abilities to those areas that do not have anything.

In that regard, I would suggest that this government should come up with some major plan to address the economic opportunities of this territory. I am not aware of any major plan this government has to address jobs and economic opportunities. I am talking



long-term jobs and economic opportunities. I am not talking \$16 million spread over the territory in one year. I am suggesting here long-term, and I am suggesting that maybe the way to address it would be to address our shortage of transportation infrastructure. I believe that this particular item could go a long way to address all our

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problems in this territory. Is it creating an infrastructure that would attract industry, and it would attract small businesses? Would it have a long-term effect on job creation and the local economy?

I think that is what we should be doing now, and I hope the Premier has some kind of plan that he is going to put into place for us to review and make comments on. I think the real issue facing the people right now, is that they want jobs rather than welfare, or the new word for it is, income support. I do not know what else you could call it. We just change the name of the thing, but it really means the same thing. I think people are not that easily fooled. They know you are talking about the same thing, and they do not want it. They want jobs and economic opportunities. I think this government has to do that before our terms are up.

With that, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. On the list, I have Mr. O'Brien. General comments, Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have many concerns, as do the majority of the good people of Arviat and Baker Lake. Mr. Chairman, I find it very difficult, at times, to feel good about this government. At times, Mr. Chairman, I feel somewhat embarrassed.

Mr. Chairman, it is difficult going back to your communities and hearing the complaints and concerns regarding health care, social services, and so on and so forth. Mr. Chairman, the rules of the game here state that I have ten minutes to make my comments, and I can assure you that I do not need that much time to say what I want to say today.

Mr. Chairman, the 3,000 residents that I represent are very disillusioned with this government and also very concerned, as I am sure are many other Northerners.

I find it very distressing that we are dealing with issues which are obvious to me with what looks like a lack of compassion and sensitivity, and in some cases, an almost total lack of consultation. These are the human factors that Mr. Roland spoke of. These are the indicators I think we will be judged on at the end of our term.

Mr. Chairman, in my community, there is a great deal of concern, as I have indicated and fear, regarding our health care. The issue of health care in the Keewatin has caused probably the greatest outcry in our region of all the issues. Albeit the Minister of Health has conducted an internal review, and is not felt that it has gone far enough. People are still living in fear.

The number of doctors that are required for our region and the number of doctors that are in place are very few. There is still no plan in place to ensure that health care, in its proper form, will be shortly. I raise the issue of the fact that there is a large number of residents who are waiting to be referred to specialists, and unfortunately that is not possible because there are no doctors to refer them. I am sure if the Minister looks into this, he could look into this point.

Mr. Chairman, as I have indicated earlier, all the people are looking for, is to be heard, listened to and to be consulted. They are not looking for big, fancy buildings or hospitals, just the basics to get by.

Mr. Chairman, the outcry that I have indicated regarding health, extends further than that. In the Keewatin, as of this date, we should have approximately 25 social workers for the Keewatin. That is to cover all the communities. Mr. Speaker, we have seven. That puts a few in Rankin, a few in Arviat and a few in Baker Lake.

When we speak of the health of our people and the future, again referring to Mr. Roland's comments, how can we expect to grow, move ahead, have healthy minds and healthy bodies and a positive future, when we do not have the basic tools to address the concerns and just the mere essentials of life?

Most of the comments and concerns which have been aired today, we all share. There is no need for me to regurgitate. My main concern is a lack of consultation. Mr. Krutko indicated that people were not listening. Mr. Chairman, that is my feeling. In some cases, they are not listening, and I am not sure, in some cases, if there is anybody home. That concludes my comments for now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Some honourable Members have indicated a number of times, when addressing to chair as Mr. Speaker, I do not know what Members are trying to tell me. But I have Mr. Enuaraq.

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to be speaking Inuktitut. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we all remember I made a motion two years ago that I requested to have a review on Cabinet Members. I am very pleased today that I am able to speak on my concerns. For those Cabinet Members that I elected, I really liked the words they spoke at the time when they were campaigning. The Honourable Don Morin, at the time when he was campaigning, I really liked what he had indicated at the time. There are four Ministers who are Members of the Nunavut Caucus. As well, there are four Members from the Western Territory. I like the fair split. They have indicated they would be representing all the people of the Northwest Territories equally.

The people of our constituencies have not forgotten what we had said at the time when we were campaigning. I have tried really hard to keep my word to my constituents. For those Ministers we have elected, especially the Premier, indicated at the time a document which was called Agenda for a Change. There are ten items that we wanted to put forward as priorities up-to-date. Few of those items have changed.

At this time, I would like to ask a question to all the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Have we kept our promises that we indicated? Especially for social issues, high cost of unemployment, and empowerment to the communities? I am not sure if we have kept our word. As I was speaking earlier, I was speaking on behalf of Clyde River. The community of Clyde River would like to put on hold community empowerment at this time because they felt they had to prepare themselves as well as getting assistance from the government departments before they go ahead. I was concerned about this issue. Perhaps this question would be more directed to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. If we would be giving empowerment to the communities, I feel we should help the communities to prepare before they can go ahead, especially to the hamlets, as they are the municipal governments.

Mr. Chairman, I do not have too much to say. First of all I would like to thank Kelvin Ng. He was able to travel to Pangnirtung, Broughton Island and Clyde River with me as well as Don Morin for travelling with me to Pangnirtung, Jim Antoine, Manitok Thompson and Goo Arlooktoo for travelling with me to those three communities.

I will be expecting for this government to work together in the future. We have a couple more years to work together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Translation ends)

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. I have the honourable Member for Hay River, Madam Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, consensus is defined as general or wide spread agreement. It does not mean full agreement with every opinion put forward by every Member or Minister. It does allow for respectful differences of opinion that are not insulting to other Members. It means exchanging ideas and opinions until the majority agrees, and consensus is achieved.

I believe that leadership must have the respect and support of the Members, but also that leadership must show respect, that same respect to the Ordinary Members. The leadership must be able to relate to a wide spectrum of people, and I believe the Cabinet that we elected two years ago has shown us they are able to do that.

What are the ongoing challenges before us as the 13th Assembly of the Government of the Northwest Territories? We know that the population is still growing rapidly. The demand on social programs is still increasing, and our economy is still not keeping up. We, as the elected leaders must continue to face these problems head on and together seek out ways to do things as efficiently as possible, providing the best results we can.

The spending cuts that have been made need to be examined carefully to measure their effect. As we know, the northern economy is fragile due to the governments large presence. So, isolated decision making in reducing spending can sometimes have the potential of costing more than the anticipated savings.

Mr. Chairman, I still find the social statistics facing this government to be staggering. The numbers,

particularly in the areas of education, in some of the smaller communities, should not be acceptable to this government. We cannot grow immune or callous to some of these facts which face us.

Our population growth rate is still 2.0 times that of the national average. Our incarceration rate is still 2.7 times that of the national average and our suicide rate is still 2.6 times that of the national average. We must continue to address these issues and not lose sight of our goals. It is only through cooperation that we can do this. We have to take a united stand, to ensure that decisions of this government are fair and equitable to all people.

Mr. Chairman, I respect that we all have the best interests of our constituencies at heart, and I understand that these priorities and goals of individual Members will differ from time to time. We must guard against becoming so involved in governing, that we ever put the concerns of those constituents to a secondary place.

Mr. Chairman, as we move ahead and we build on the progress and accomplishments of the past two years, we must not lose sight of the fact that we are only here to humbly serve the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Madam Groenewegen. I have the honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order to put this mid-term review in context for me, I want to focus not only on the road we have already travelled as an Assembly, but the road we have yet to travel. If you keep that in mind, this mid-term review, is in fact, in my opinion about a two-third review, because in about a year, the eastern Members will be gearing up to go on a hustings, and run for election. So very clearly it changes the focus in my mind.

We have in fact, dealt with the deficit. It was not simply the deficit we dealt with. We dealt with the issue of too much government, government restructuring and the fact that the government can no longer be the engine of growth in the Northwest Territories. So it is not just an issue of cutting. There is a tremendous change that goes with that, and we have paid a price. In Fort Smith, the community that I represent, there were about 70 jobs lost plus all the

accompanying program cuts. I know that our community was not alone, so our communities are hurting and struggling to cope.

The one saving grace or the one commitment we can make out of this whole process is that it had to be done, and we have to ensure as politicians that this never happens again. We have done it, but we cannot afford to repeat it. If we do, in my opinion we have broken trust and all this suffering is for naught.

Overall, I think we did take the steps, we did make mistakes, but we did meet that particular goal. We have also done things that I think bear some notice in the area of legislation. We took a seven year process with the family law bill, and we brought that to conclusion or we will be very soon with the completion of the Adoption Act. We have done some good work in municipal legislation. Of course, for me, I am pleased to see the work that has been done on the Election Act.

As we have attempted to cope with the deficit, we have tried with healthy children initiatives, with Northern Employment Strategies and with focus on community development, trying to have community-directed income support, community-based justice initiatives and trying to increase home care. We have made, however imperfect, attempts not to do things on the backs of the poor.

I think also, it should be noted, at least in the west, where this has probably been more of an ongoing issue, from what I can see and what I know about the past, the relationships that we have had with aboriginal governments are probably better than they have been in the past. We are working. However you want to describe the constitutional process, we are working at that process. We are working on the Western Coalition in terms of formula financing. So I think that is well deserved recognition.

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We are weak in some areas. The issue of division. We came into this Assembly, knowing we are behind and in fact I believe we still are behind. I do not think it is an issue that can be ignored. It is going to be one of two main issues that we have to deal with for the rest of our time together.

I think it is incumbent upon us, both east and west, to do everything in our power to put the pieces in place to, in fact, ensure there is a smooth transition. But very clearly, once we pass the next budget, this

Assembly as we know it, is going to be changing dramatically, and it will be changing along east and west lines, as we start moving towards our own jurisdictions and trying to put the pieces in place for April 1, 1999.

I think as an Assembly and as a government, we have to also acknowledge we did not do and have not done as good a job as we can or could have in the area of communications. We were slow off the mark, and I think we created a lot of our own problems by how we handled our communication, not only with the public, but with our own staff.

It cost us, in terms of credibility. A lot of the good work we did do, I think went by unnoticed. It made it difficult to get out the message in a coherent way. I know we are working on that, but if we look in the past, I think it is an area we were weak.

We also have to deal with the continued shroud of secrecy that tends to surround a lot of business we do as a government. What we see in the House is only one small part of the business of government. I am still of the opinion that we could easily open up some of our committee processes, where the most meaningful debate takes place to let the people see what people are talking about, how we struggle with issues. Unfortunately, I have raised this issue a number of times and people tend to recoil back at the very thought. I do not think it is anything to be scared of.

The committee system as we know it, Mr. Chairman, is drawing to a close, and in my opinion is tied into the budget process that is coming up and the move towards division and our colleagues from the east going out for election on the hustings. I think this exercise is a commitment we made and does have a function, but I think we have to keep in mind it is important not to focus too long on looking in the rear view mirror because the road ahead of us is filled with turns, twists and possible pot holes. If we do not keep our eye on that road, yet to be travelled, we could end up doing an injustice to the people that we represent.

As we move ahead with division, which is a broader political issue for two territories, we have to continue to try to focus on the lives and quality of life, of the people in our communities. They should not be impacted by the whole division process which is a broader issue at a higher level. We have to ensure we work as hard as necessary and divert all the funds possible into the areas dealing with social programs and above all, economic development. When you

have jobs, people are working and there is money to be spent; social problems go down.

So I look forward to the upcoming year ahead of us, but I think we have to acknowledge and keep our eye on the road yet to be travelled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

--Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Chair recognizes Mr. Barnabas.

**MR. BARNABAS:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I will be speaking in Inuktitut. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you and to briefly state my concerns. First of all, there was a problem I had encountered regarding not being able to get to Grise Fiord. What bothered me so much and I wanted the government to be able to help me. In some way, I was able to get assistance from the government to resolve the problem. On the other hand, I have noticed my constituents are not in any hurry for community empowerment and there have been some people from Municipal and Community Affairs that went to my constituents to consult with them about it. Our hamlets themselves have consulted each other about community empowerment. Perhaps if I put it this way, about the jobs of GLO, which were taken. The position was put into the hamlets for them to have a GLO but because their wages were cut or were laid-off the hamlet had to get some money or funding from somewhere in order for the GLOs to continue their job.

I am happy about the elimination of our deficit, but at the same time, the deficit was eliminated by cutting back the employment of people that live in the smaller communities. In some ways, when we go camping in the communities, we talk about the cutbacks by the government. There is little information, but we do not realize until we get back to our community that their jobs have been cut off. I do not have very much to say, but I would like to thank the people and the Ministers that were able to visit my constituents, such as Manikot Thompson and Jim Antoine. But I would also like to thank Mr. Morin, although I was not in the community due to ice conditions during camping. I would like to also say at this time that the things we have dealt with as committees and as Members of the Legislative Assembly have not been solved to date. Some of us are not familiar with the procedures of the

Legislative Assembly when we are just starting out as new Members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (End translation).

--Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I have Mr. Evaloarjuk, Mr. Rabesca and Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) I do not know what language I will be speaking. I was in Montreal for a while, so maybe I will speak French. Mr. Chairman. I just want to briefly say, maybe it will be less than two minutes, as I did not prepare for my statements. First, I would like to comment on the Chairman's (break in recording) I understand when we look back at the past and the work that we have done gives us ideas and understanding of what we have accomplished from the past and today. We will always go back to the past in order to move forward.

For instance, how we were brought up and raised. Sometimes I do not want to be involved when I see young people when they do not want to understand or learn their culture. I can understand their confusion. When I was running for election, I felt strongly, and I still feel strongly about suicide in the north. I would like to see a solution to this problem, but I cannot say what kind of solution we can come up with. We have to look for solutions. We also have to see what the problems are concerning suicide. We can guess what the problems are, but

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I am not sure what they are for suicide. Maybe we can say they are abused as children. But I do not think that those are the only reasons for suicide. There must be a reason for people to commit suicide. I believe part of the problem is, murder of oneself. I believe also there are a lot of abortions. I also consider abortion murder because they also have human rights. I consider this committing murder.

I could say that my constituents do not want to be dragged and run by the Members of the Legislative Assembly. We know that communities can decide for themselves. They can try it at first and then if they need help, they can come to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. I believe this is how self-government works. Some communities would like to have control and too we are trying to prepare them for

when the Government of the Northwest Territories will transfer community empowerment to some of the first communities, which are Pond Inlet and Cape Dorset. I believe they have accepted community empowerment. I also support that as Members of the Legislative Assembly we have seen and have been involved in supporting people who want self-government, I respect these people and I do not want to see any communities that would like to proceed be delayed by the government.

There are land claims agreements and other agreements that have been prepared. These should not be delayed. These have been hard challenges, and I do not have anything to complain about because we all have different ways. I think we all have faults and weaknesses, and we cannot satisfy everybody, although we try our best to do the work we have to do. This is all I have to say. I just wanted to say a short statement. Thank you. (End translation)

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

(Translation) Your two minutes are over. Mr. Rabesca. (End translation)

**MR. RABESCA:**

Last response to the mid-term review, Mr. Chairman. It has been two years since you, my colleagues and myself, first set foot in this 13th Legislative Assembly. Over this time we have all grown into our roles, some more vocal than others, some like myself being rather silent in the House. But behind the doors, more vocal than anything, more productive. I have, over the last two years, provided a number of solutions to my constituents. Not through this House, but rather to discuss the problem with appropriate Ministers and the other staff members which has been proven to be successful in most cases for me. Over the last while we have had many decisions to make, hard decisions, with the most important getting our government financially sound. I know that we have all taken the heat from our constituents for the varieties of issues relating to the dollars that the government does not have. I think when we tell our residents that things are changing and the money is tight, they do not realize what we face when trying to get everything that we need. We have, however, taken this problem and have met it head on. Today we can say that there is a light at the end of tunnel. For this, we should thank the Premier and his Cabinet for the hard work they have done to guide us through these troubled waters.

Other problems with which we have dealt with are many, and again I would like to recognize the Premier and his Cabinet for their guidance. However, there are many areas that I feel that this government has come short to deliver. I would suggest that this government has not truly addressed the issue of transparencies. In some cases this is true. However, it rather depends on who the request is for and what the issue is. I would also suggest that this government has not provided what they have stated over and over again, that this is to provide an information highway for all the communities. The contractors have simply not provided the information or equipment to meet their own timetable. This area is very important for the outlying communities, which today does not have those important tools.

This government must look at their current policy for the request for proposals. This can, and I feel, has been a method that this government has used to ensure products and other services are purchased from one supplier. This takes away all the fairness and equity that the tendering process is to have. We are now talking about private/public partnerships. This again could be a rather dangerous process that could easily give the bigger businesses of the Northwest Territories and the south much more say and opportunities than what could happen to the smaller companies that do not have access to the money to enter into those types of arrangements.

When sitting here we have heard many announcements about the millions of dollars being injected into the economy and to provide training. However, I have not seen or heard these dollars are going into the communities. The work must go on out there, and very few are taking advantage of these dollars. This must be changed. This must change. I have not seen any new business start up in my area as a result of these added dollars. I feel that this government has come a long way to providing an efficient, organized spend-thrifty government. I would like to again, congratulate Members for this but must realize we cannot rely on big business to provide for our self-sufficiency.

At least a small business and ordinary members of this community that will make a difference must start small. Local businesses are the ones that will employ our residents to provide for a long term solution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Rabesca. I have Mr. Erasmus and Mr. Ng. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, unlike my friend from Nunakput, when I was elected, I did not expect to change the world. I knew how difficult this job could be and at times how frustrating. I knew there would be many problems that my constituents had, that I would not be able to solve, no matter how hard I wanted to. I knew this because I knew many MLAs and in speaking to them, they informed me this is the way it is and sometimes you just cannot do things. At the same time, it has been very satisfying in being able to contribute to several important projects.

I have worked on the Constitution, the Investment Strategy, Employment Strategy, Affirmative Action Review, the Family Law Review and the passage of those Acts. Although I was not successful in getting a very important amendment added to it, I am generally satisfied with the work that we have done. I would like to briefly touch on some of the aspects of the Agenda for Change that we passed when we first started.

The first thing we wanted to do was to secure our financial future. Mr. Chairman, we have balanced the budget and that is an achievement. It has been difficult, but we stuck to our guns, and I must commend all the Members in being able to stick to what we laid out. Of course we still have problems we have to

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deal with; the pay equity, that is going to cost a lot of money. We still have to deal with forced growth. All the children that are being born, which of course puts a strain on our education, health and income support budgets. We also have to ensure we have a detailed sorting facility in a community. Naturally it would take a lot of work to persuade me that Yellowknife is not the most logical place for that facility.

I also feel we must work on the Northern Accord so that we can get the proper royalties from our development as well as to tie employment to licences.

The next area was to improve social conditions. Mr. Chairman, we had a very difficult time to save the senior fossil fuel subsidy, but we finally did after much arm twisting. We, this government, did cut income support. I know that a lot of people are finding it is difficult time to do that. We are also trying to tie

income support to productive choices, which I think in the long run, will help people to better their lives, get training and the rest of that. People do need time to adjust to that.

One of the things I do not like is the fact we now have the highest pupil/teacher ratio in Canada. I think we have to do something about this. A recent study in Ontario indicated that pupil/teacher ratio should be lowered not raised. I also like the new role we are taking in health which stresses prevention rather than cure. Of course this also takes time.

In housing, the Plan 2000 is a good plan. I naturally feel of course we need more houses allotted to the west. Under improving economic conditions, we have done a couple of good things, the Aurora Fund, which is providing investment money to businesses. Of course, this provides jobs and retains current jobs. Also the Student Employment Strategy, where we put \$2 million into student employment, I understand this had helped to create hundreds of jobs in the last several months.

One thing I did not like was so much privatization. Privatization lowers our standard of living because the person who now runs that particular area of business, the owner, he makes a lot of money. The employees under that owner, usually make much less money than they would have, if they were working for government. They often need two jobs to make the same amount of money they were previously making.

Community empowerment, I strongly support community empowerment. When we first started talking about this, many MLAs said we needed to train people and take the time to consult with them. I am glad to see the Cabinet responded by putting a couple million dollars into community empowerment for training. I know that several communities are now doing things on their own, but several because of the way people have talked about it, there is still a lot of suspicion out there. Of course everybody talks about downloading and things like that. So we need to ensure that there is enough money to make community empowerment work when the communities take over certain programs.

Under developing a more effective and more efficient government structure, the first thing we did was eliminate the Department of Personnel. That, I am not exactly sure how that made us more efficient and effective, but for instance we now have people in Yellowknife running around in the morning with stacks of resumes from building to building because there is

no central hiring agency. It seems like all the personnel officers are now working in the personnel areas of the different departments, so I do not see how they saved us any money. We probably have more staff working in personnel now that we did in the past.

Another thing we did was get rid of the central switchboard. So now when a person from a smaller community calls here, long distance, they look in the blue pages of the phone book and the number they get is no longer in service or they finally get through to someone, and the person they are trying to find is no longer there or they get passed around. Sometimes they have to make four or five calls to try to find where they are, who they are trying to find. So I do not know about that particular strategy either. I think something has to be done in those two areas.

I have heard several complaints also, that reducing our administration, we did do that, but we did not improve the productivity as we said we were going to do in our plan because it now takes longer to do the same things we used to do. For instance it takes longer when we put a request for information, to try to help our constituents. It takes longer to get it done.

Making Nunavut and the Western Territory a reality, I support Nunavut, but I know we are behind a couple of years in our work that has to be done. As I say, I do support Nunavut, but it should not affect the level of programs and services in the west. Also, the millions and millions of dollars that has been spent on training in Nunavut, obviously this money is coming from the federal government, but the perception is there, where the residents of Denedeh that it is unfair because they are still, territorial government dollars going into training there as well. We need a similar program for training in the west. We still have hundreds, thousands of people that need training and upgrading.

Mr. Chairman, as I said, I am generally pleased with the progress that we have made, but we do have a lot of work to do, particularly in the area of taking action in aboriginal issues which we have to work on. Those are some of those types of things I will be talking about later, when we talk about the future direction we should take. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. I have Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker and chairman of committee of the whole. First of all, after support from the Members of this House, that gave me honour of sitting on Cabinet, the Premier assigned me the responsibilities for Health and Social Services, Justice and as the lead Minister for Social Policy renewal. I am going to speak as generally as I can within the ten minutes on those three matters.

First in respect to my responsibilities as Minister of Health and Social Services. When I assumed that role, the focus of the department and on government, was on deficit reduction as a whole. The initial approach was to identify areas where expenditures could be reduced. Coupled with that was the fact that the department historically received, obtained and submitted supplementary funding requests to cover their escalating costs. We quickly realized this approach could not be successful in the long term. We recognized the need to identify what those cost drivers were and to develop some

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strategies that offset, reduced or caused to decrease those cost drivers.

The actions that we have taken over the past year, while dealing with the restrictive financial conditions, our changes, have been guided by the need to measure impact while at the same time trying to maintain a quality of care within our programs.

We worked with our boards and other agencies to reduce expenditures or reduce the rate of growth of expenditures and to develop alternative approaches that were less facility-intensive, more prevention focused that looked at repatriation of individuals from southern jurisdictions and supported home care throughout the north.

I want to speak briefly about strategic planning within the Department of Health and Social Services. It has caught the attention, as Mr. Henry said, of some members and some interest groups.

You have to recognize that the Department, I think, has undergone a strategic planning process over the past five or six years and have never gone to the end of that. We realized that for us to make informed investments that would result in a more appropriate system that would determine a healthier population, we needed to develop a long-range plan for the health and social services system to assist us and guide us

in some of those changes. That is why we accelerated the strategic planning process.

One of the first tasks was to complete the amalgamation of health and social services. In so doing, we brought the service delivery to at least the regional level and, in some instances, the community level. I think what is important to note on this is the issue about empowerment of regional health and social services boards as again, it is an area that has brought questions from some organizations and from some Members of this House as we shifted the resources and delivery of programs and decision-making to regional boards, whether it be in the area of medical travel, home care, alcohol and drug funding, wellness funding or social services. The decisions that the boards have made have not always been popular. Members speak about empowerment and the support of empowerment, but they always ultimately question some of the decisions that boards make. We have to decide once and for all is giving the decision-making to the board appropriate or should it be retained outside of the region, outside of the communities and held in a central location?

Having said that, I think there are more Members that support empowerment whether it is at a regional level or a community level than those that oppose it. What we have to do as a ministry, what we have to continue to do now is to support some of the board actions, assist them in their development, set monitoring and evaluation standards that we have spoken about and try to assist them in improving the quality of their work by supporting some of the human resources that we provide to health and social services boards.

System planning within health and social services is under way that is going to provide a framework for service delivery whether it is at the regional, community or territorial level, that would include the appropriate staffing mix, appropriate infrastructures to support those programs. The departmental restructuring is almost complete, as well, in respect to providing structures for the department in two new territories and trying to allow a smooth transition from one operation to two.

Some of the priorities in the next year and a half leading up to 1999 is having departmental input into some of the formula funding discussions in trying to obtain more adequate federal funding for the first five to ten years of two new governments and planning for the completion of the major infrastructure needs in Inuvik, Baffin, Keewatin, Kitikmeot, Deh Cho and Fort Smith while at the same time with some of the



spending that we have under control, projections being more accurate and some of the strategic reinvestments that we have to take in the next year in respect to children's programming, public health, supported living and mental health strategies.

Just briefly, I see I am running short on time with health, and I have not gone to Justice or the other things yet. So briefly, I will just speak on some of the partnerships, ECE, Health and Social Services and Healthy Children Initiative which started out an Early Intervention Strategy, and it made sense for more departments to work together particularly in trying to integrate some of the services at the community level through the health care professionals, teachers, school counsellors, daycare workers, social workers, et cetera.

The joint initiative of Health and Social Services and Justice in respect to community supervision and planning to implementing and enhancing those supervision initiatives through regional health and social services boards.

The Ministerial Council on Social Policy Renewal has indicated the Premier assigned me as the lead Minister. It started out as an effort between the provinces and territories basically in responding to federal withdrawal of funding for Health and Social Services. The counsel mandate is to focus on clarifying some of the roles and responsibilities between governments, developing principles to guide Social Policy Renewal and trying to coordinate the different segments of that.

In the area of Justice, again, the department that is focused on meeting budget targets with the exclusion of developing some long-range strategies, and hence, some of the strategic planning initiatives that is under way within the department, we recognize the need to reform the justice system. However, it is slower to initiate this in a status quo, more regulated type of system that we work under. But in the long run, we believe the resources can be more economically and effectively used in the community to deal with crime and preventative measures. We focus on the community-justice initiatives to make the justice system more relevant to the communities and individuals in those communities.

In the area of policing, there has been a lot of work undertaken in the community constable programs in collaboration with MACA and with the RCMP to increase the involvement, again at the local level.

In the area of Corrections, there is a plan to deal with growth pressures by shifting the emphasis from incarceration to alternative methods of dealing with offenders, but we still have to recognize that there is a need for facilities. There has been an emphasis on wilderness camps and contributions to establish wilderness camps and ongoing per diem funding to support their operations.

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I guess basically, Mr. Speaker, in closing off, the Health and Social Services and Justice, as we all know, are difficult portfolios. Decisions have been made. Many have been controversial in that any decision we make, you cannot please everybody. The government and myself as Minister have tried to make those decisions as fairly and equitably as possible in trying to treat communities and constituencies on a level playing field. With that, Mr. Chairman, I will conclude my comments. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when the 13th Assembly convened in November, 1995, this government was faced, as we all know, with about \$150 million deficit. Within 24 months, or two short years, we have all succeeded in achieving a balanced budget. Frankly, Mr. Chairman, this is an unprecedented achievement that has been attained through, in my opinion, sound fiscal planning and the commitment and diligence and belt-tightening, if you want, by all residents of the Northwest Territories, and, Mr. Chairman, it has been achieved without the need to increase both corporate or personal income tax.

As part of this deficit reduction effort the Financial Management Board led the charge on the reform of government administration which resulted in streamline bureaucracy with a much larger portion of the government's money now going directly to programs and people rather than administration and management. Field base staff have been given more authority to respond to client's needs. Fact, Mr. Chairman, not fiction.

It was also necessary to take the difficult actions needed to make the Northwest Territories Public Service a more northern-based public service. For example, Mr. Chairman, changes to the government

staff housing policy have forced a unified housing standard for all community residents and eliminated the distinction between housing provided for Government of the Northwest Territories staff versus that available for other community residents.

Vacation travel assistance and other benefits designed for imported work force have been replaced with a northern allowance which supports non-employees to meet the cost of living in their communities. In addition, Mr. Chairman, an Affirmative Action Strategy has been completed under the guidance of the subcommittee of this House.

The Financial Management Board has also implemented the practise of business planning in the government. We now have a more rational, strategic approach to planning and one which should enable us to conclude the remainder of our tenure with a balanced budget and minimal accumulated debt.

As well, the Department of Finance has successfully concluded the discussions of the federal government on the 1995/1999 Formula Financing Agreement. We are pleased to report that we have negotiated the inclusion of a flow in the agreement which assures this government that the federal transfer payments will not fall below set level.

In the area of Economic Development, the Mortgage Investment Corporation was initiated which was successful precisely because it did not have to be implemented. Think about that. As was their Aurora Fund, and now of course, their Aurora Fund 2. My department, at the present time, is finalizing work of the other three initiatives that arose from Team NWT Tour of the eastern provinces last year.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment, we negotiated the renewal of the Canada Northwest Territories Infrastructure Agreement. This agreement injected \$4.4 million into joint programs aimed at creating jobs for northerners and developing community infrastructure. For job creation, yes, and community-based Economic Development; we initiated the Northern Employment Strategy. This is a \$32 million fund aimed at local job creation, summer student employment, business development as an investment in our future and that of our children which, right now, is showing early signs of being, yes, Mr. Chairman, a resounding success.

We champion and advocate the partnership approach to solving economic and social challenges in the

north. In the challenging fiscal climate in which we find ourselves, the Government of the Northwest Territories, cannot any longer afford to be, as I have said many times, the engine of the economic growth in the northern communities. We need to develop new and innovative approaches modelled on those which have been pioneered in other jurisdiction in order to bring much-needed capital into the communities we all represent.

My department is currently undertaking a study of public/ private partnership, the three P's, related to infrastructure, investments, and we look forward to continuing work in this area as an important means of improving the economic conditions of northerners.

The Financial Management Board has taken the lead on the development of implementation of a new digital communication network that will bring the Northwest Territories in the communication age, and we are pleased to advise that the contact for this important arctic communications project is with a consortium of, yes, northern businesses and aboriginal development corporations. This initiative will allow widespread application of tele-medicine and distance education which will increase the access by Northwest Territories' residents to a broader array of services.

The Department of Finance working with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is currently in discussions with the federal government of Indian Affairs to ensure the interest of northerners are protected, as the diamond industry becomes established in the Northwest Territories. At the same time, the Department of Finance has conducted in-depth research and analysis in the area of taxation related to resource industries specifically diamond mining. Any tax regime brought in by this government to maximize resource revenues for northerners would only be introduced when all other avenues to successfully conclude discussion with the federal government have been exhausted.

It is the intention of this government to ensure that the benefits flowing from northern diamonds accrue to northerners, not just the foreign interests. Therefore, these taxation measures, if introduced, will be targeted specifically at the large multinational mining corporations which stand to make billions from northern diamonds.

The Department of Finance and the Financial Management Board, and the Division Secretary have taken the lead role for

this government in discussion with our federal counterparts and northern partners in the process of creating two new viable territories on April 1, 1999.

With the Finance and Financial Management Board taking the lead, all the departments of this government have made significant contribution to the substantial body of work undertaken in the preparation for division. We have established the process for discussing post 1999 financial arrangements for two territories with the federal government and the northern parties. The discussions at this table have been under way since May, 1997 and are on track for a successful conclusion by the spring of 1998.

We produced the phase when costing document which identifies ongoing corporate costs of two separate governments, and we developed a phase two transaction plan which we tabled in the House. We will be tabling with northern planners this week, geographic, expenditure, allocations for formula financing negotiations which identify the split in program expenditures. We continue to actively participate in working groups, committees and other multi-lateral forums designed to facilitate communications between the parties on a number of issues ranging from preparations for the first election for the two new territories to the legislative amendments required to facilitate two new territories.

I have said many times about the WCB, I think it stands for itself. It is an organization that not only is fully funded, increased the benefits to injured workers, reduced the costs to the owners, and took on additional responsibilities in this government at no additional expense to the employers.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, while the departments in my portfolio have made great progress over the last two years, there is still much work to be done. We have set up notice with the Union of Northern Workers to commence a collective bargaining process. We would like to reinstate this government's commitment to the principle of pay equity, and we hope we can reach an agreement prior to April 1, 1998.

We will continue to provide advice and support to the office of the Interim Commissioner, and we will continue to work with all northern parties involved in the process of creating two new territories to ensure that the dreams and aspirations of all residents of the

Northwest Territories are realized in the creation of two new territories.

On a personal note, I have very much appreciated the wise and often biblical advice that I have been given by a number of Members of this House. I also appreciate the cooperation of the Chairs of the committees, which was essential to the difficult choices we all have to make. I want to leave you with one last, fundamental comment. All of us will be judged on what we do, not what we say. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. We will be taking a dinner break at 6:00 p.m., but, however, I would like to ask Mr. Kakfwi if he wished to make a statement now or after the break. Mr. Kakfwi?

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

I would be very pleased to proceed right now. In spite of the presence of the enthusiastic Members.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Proceed, please.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, I know that they are all here and I thank them for their attention, they are with me. Mr. Chairman, I do see value in this review. I believe in this business of governing. It is always important to take time to reflect, to evaluate the things we have done, the things we have failed to do. Just to revisit and be clear about what it is that we are trying to do. In that process try to find the enthusiasm to continue our work. From the beginning, I have liked the way that all Members have approached and committed themselves to the work that we have found ourselves facing when we were elected. All of us were serious about the job we had. We identified the problems and were resolved to work together to find solutions. We have done that.

I think with the courage of the commitment we have made, we find today that our budget is balanced, but we still have to tackle the accumulated deficit. There is much more to do and there are still many tough decisions to make before the next election. We have to set out a clear direction and stick to it as we have the last two years in order to make the last two years of our mandate something that we can all be proud of. We must remember that in spite of the turmoil caused by restructuring and downsizing, the majority of our

constituents have continued to receive programs and services without significant upheaval and without a significant drop in the quality of service. It must be pointed out to Members that when Members felt there had been enough amalgamation there was a halt put to that process. Our success to date also has been in large part to a very hard working civil service that was very quick to adapt to the changing times and also to the people of the north who have rallied to support us and who have recognized that spending had to be brought under control.

In respect to division, I still believe that we will be ready for the creation of two new territories, that division will happen on schedule, that it will be acceptable to the people of the east and the west, that we will find out incremental funding and both territories will be well positioned to meet the challenges of the new century. We will also find a new name for the Western Territory. The reason for my optimism is not Mr. Henry, but the strong leadership shown in this Legislature. The leadership at the regional and community level, amongst our mayors, chiefs, Metis leaders and in the land claim organizations. With their support we will get through the next 18 months of decisions.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to point out that my assignment in 1996 was to amalgamate three departments and to cut \$5 million. I was given a year to do it, it took myself and my staff five months to complete that job. It could not have been done without the full cooperation, support and assistance of the Standing Committee on Resource Management and the Cabinet colleagues. Many organizations, while cautious, were also very cooperative and helpful. We opted to work quickly and to be decisive because we knew and felt that to prolong the restructuring would have serious consequences affecting morale and quality of services, and I am glad that we have done it this way. I am proud of the accomplishment, and I wish to especially commend Andrew Gamble, the deputy Minister and his staff for the work.

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Restructuring and amalgamation did not put a stop to the day-to-day work we had facing us. While working on amalgamation, we have also negotiated the BHP Environmental Agreement, moved forward on the Protected Areas Strategy, signed off on the Mackenzie River Basin Agreements, created a Community Energy Management Plan, participated and helped fund the West Kitikmeot Slave Study and formally established three new territorial parks.

Addressed outstanding issues important to the traditional economy such as downgrading bison so they are now exportable and harvestable. As well, polar bear hides, trophies are now allowed to be taken into the United States, and with our partners we have continued to ensure that European markets are open for our fur and our trappers. An important initiative has been our Community Economic Development Strategy. Key to the success of this strategy is the regionalization of our grants and contributions and development of more community futures programs in regions where they did not exist. This has meant that there can be quick turn around on applications for funding and more opportunities for partnering with other groups who have access to funding from other sources.

Our Community Economic Development Strategy is the economic arm of the Government of the Northwest Territories' empowerment initiative. I believe it is the key ingredient to future success in the creation of jobs and small business at the community level, particularly level two and level three communities where we need it the most. We have developed and distributed a draft economic framework and continued to work to support and provide assistance to the Nunavut and western tourism organizations. With respect to the economy and employment, we have concluded and now monitor the BHP Socio-economic Agreement and have actively participated and funded a very successful community mobilization program. I hope next Monday in Ottawa to sign off on the egg quota issue with the federal government of Agriculture, an issue that has been ongoing for the last 12 years.

We have successfully completed the contracting out of fire fighting and air attack responsibilities and have fought to successfully lower the pipeline tariff by reducing the shipping costs of a barrel of oil from \$6.00 to \$4.50 on the Norman Wells IPL Pipeline. What this does is increase the federal government's share of revenue, and it makes the industry more interested in searching for oil and gas in the area because the cost of transportation of that product makes it much more marketable in the south.

Early results of the Employment Strategy and the effective delivery of our programs and our services are promising. We have recently reported that \$5.8 million invested in northerners between April 1st and August 30th of this year has brought in projects we valued at over \$21 million.

Thirty-five thousand work weeks of employment have been created, an equivalent of 890 full-time jobs. The Business Credit Corporation and Community Futures Loans to the end of August total \$6.6 million and partnership funds levered over \$4 million.

These are only some of the issues that we have worked on. We will make available more detailed achievement or progress reports to the Members later this week. What is important is what our future plans are. People need to know that this government is respecting the environment, is protecting the wildlife and balancing the development of resources to create jobs and opportunities. I believe the department now has its house in order. We have the staff, the organization in place. We have now increased funding, I believe that will be available. The Northwest Territories Development Corporation has finally stabilized and has streamlined their operation, as well, is in position to start being able to deliver more initiatives and programs and services, particularly to level two and level three communities. I think this is the work that we are going to do in the next six months in the year. We now are in a position where we can actually go out to the regions and to the communities, sit down with them and in partnership come up with some real ideas on how we can create jobs, maximize opportunities and follow through on those types of efforts that need to be done so desperately in all our regions. We will continue to streamline our regulations.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

The time is up? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I would like to inform the public that we are dealing with the mid-term review, Tabled Document 1-13(5) Mid-Term Review Documents. We will take a break, however, I would like to remind the Members of the Standing Committee on Government Operations that they will be meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Committee Room A and that dinner is being served. We will take a dinner break and right after dinner another presiding officer will preside over this committee once we resume. One hour. Thank you.

--Break

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Next on the list for general comments, I have Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, some honourable Members asked me if I would make a statement today. Realizing that we are given an opportunity every session, every day during the session to make a statement, thereby I will not be making a statement at this time. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

General comments. Any more general comments? Ms. Thompson?

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Before I became a Minister, we were all asked to state the reasons why we wanted to become a Minister. I spoke about the need to build the skills of our community so more decisions can be made at the local level; to reduce the deficit and still maintain a high level of public service and to improve the social conditions in the north by pooling community capacity, self confidence and pride.

Mr. Chairperson, I believe throughout my term I have been working hard to improve upon these areas of concern. Mr. Chairperson, I believe I have been very approachable, as has my department and I have been open and honest in my communications.

During my term I have spent much time communicating with community leaders across the Northwest Territories. As Ministers, we all have had to learn about new programs and about a different culture and community differences.

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In my first year, I visited over half the communities across the Territories, many in the western regions. I took time to learn. Mr. Chairperson, community empowerment is a priority established by this government's Agenda for Change, with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs being assigned the lead. It is about changing the way we do business in government so that communities can regain their independence. Even today, there are too many decisions that are made by the territorial government that could be made by the communities themselves.

As Members, we must have confidence in our community people to make community decisions for themselves. Mr. Chairman, I was very pleased to be given the responsibility for Municipal and Community Affairs. As Members we all believe in the importance of local government, and the importance of creating more opportunities for communities to develop and take control of their own futures.

When MACA inherited Community Transfer Initiatives, it was just about transfers. As Cabinet Ministers, we proposed the broader concept of community empowerment. As leaders we wanted to put a solid community-development foundation in place. I also wanted to state that when the Members are talking about community empowerment, they think it is just transfers. It is not just transfers. It is more than that. It is building a foundation for the communities. We as a government, have a responsibility to make sure communities have the skills and the resources required to be successful in the two new territories.

Mr. Chairman, a number of key activities have been long under way that support our development approach to community empowerment. Communities are getting involved in community-based planning to do a vision in their communities, decide where they want to be, the challenges they need to overcome, the priority areas they need to focus on and the things they want to accomplish. The action they need to get to where they want to be.

Communities are assessing their capacity in light of the opportunities. They have available and are training people for the responsibility that comes with empowerment. Communities are participating with the department to change municipal legislation and municipal financing arrangements and to make it more flexible and responsive to community and territorial needs.

Communities are also working with the department to improve municipal financing arrangements to make it more flexible and responsible to community, territorial needs. Communities are being consulted.

Departments are working together on regional inter-departmental community empowerment teams to support community development in each region.

Mr. Chairman, there has been a lot of attention on community empowerment initiatives, but it is important to remember that is not all that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs does.

The core programs that provide municipal infrastructure, financial assistance, sports and recreation, emergency services, consumer protection, property assessment, land administration and a wide range of training programs are still in place and providing valuable support in communities.

I have been clear in my direction to the department that these core programs are essential and must be maintained. Communities rely on this support, and I am pleased to say that by and large, they receive excellent support from our regional offices.

At regional leadership meetings, I seek direct feedback from the Mayors on how the department is doing. For the most part, the feedback I get is positive. The communities know that MACA listens and does its best to help.

When there are issues and concerns from communities or MLAs, I make sure they are addressed quickly. Mr. Chairman, under my direction, MACA has also undertaken a number of initiatives to help reduce the government deficit. The department itself absorbs a permanent one million dollar reduction to its O and M budget in 96/97. It is also important to know that 80 percent of my department's budget goes directly to communities in transfer payments. In 96/97 these payments were reduced by 5 percent. Mr. Chairperson, community governments themselves are major economic players in the north. They employ staff, provide services and programs to residents and undertake capital projects. As I mentioned earlier, MACA transfers, about 80 percent of its budget, go directly to community governments through various financial support programs. At the same time, through my department's many training programs, community staff learn to manage their funds efficiently and effectively.

Every year more of MACA's capital projects are delivered through project management agreements. It is through these efforts that we have been working to improve the economic conditions in the north.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the sooner the communities have control and authority over decisions that affect them, the sooner we will see social conditions improve. We have to realize the dependency that have been created on government is contributing to a lot of social problems. It is interesting to see that many of the issues that people are identifying in their community based planning workshops are social issues. People care about their

communities, and they want to do something about the problems.

My Department of Municipal and Community Affairs continues to play a key role in the area of social improvements. Our responsibilities include: search and rescue efforts across the NWT; strategies that encourage volunteerism and training for volunteers. Construction of recreation facilities that provide a place for people to meet, get involved, compete for their community and mix with their families. Administering team NWT involvement in the NWT Winter Games/Canada Game/Western Canada Games in the North American indigenous games and strategies that support community wellness and youth development.

My responsibilities for the women's directorate also have the government playing an important role in developing resources and workshops that improve upon the social conditions across the north.

Mr. Chairman, our government is committed to building capacity in communities, so local people can successfully take on more decision-making authority and responsibility so that in the end it is the local people making local decisions for the benefit of their community.

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The results of community empowerment are positive and encouraging. In the future I expect my Department to concentrate on the ongoing development of our communities; to work with them in developing and implementing their plans, monitoring and evaluating their responsibilities and identifying and providing needed training - I just added to our minutes - assisting communities with the development of their organizations, structures and volunteer base; continue progress on the work needed to better persist in both new territories for success; continue management of spending while looking for ways of improved efficiencies and partnerships and increasing individual and community awareness of their responsibilities to health, safety and education and the community.

I would also like to thank the people in my constituency, in the communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour and Repulse Bay for their support. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. General comments? Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to make some general comments here tonight during this 13th Assembly, mid-term review.

Mr. Chairman, I approach this review as an opportunity to be accountable to the people of my constituency as an MLA for them, as well as to the Members. The honourable Members of this House as well as the people of the Northwest Territories whom, I serve as a Minister in this government.

In this consensus government I feel we have to be accountable for our actions and decisions, particularly when you are a Minister of a government of the Northwest Territories. This forum I believe is one of the opportunities to do just that.

Mr. Chairman, the last two years of this 13th Assembly, I had the honour of serving this government as Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Minister of Transportation and for a short while, the beginning of this term, as a Minister of Safety and Public Service.

I had approached these responsibilities as a challenge and to put my skills and expertise that I have towards these responsibilities.

One of my original departments was Safety and Public Service. One of my early tasks was to dismantle this government in line with the government's plan to downsize so that we have a leaner government. This is one of the ways of trying to deal with the deficit we all agreed to try to deal with.

I must say that all the programs of the Safety and Public Services were transferred to other, more appropriate departments. I am satisfied this transition and change was accomplished. Like many changes there is always unforeseen problems. This transition and with the help of this assembly, we were able to accomplish this task although there were some problems that came up, but we were able to deal with that.

My other department was the Department of Transportation and, Mr. Chairman, today I am confident to say, we have a safe and reliable transportation system across the Northwest Territories. I am fully aware of the many outstanding demands for improvements to our transportation

facilities in the north, and we are attempting to meet the priority needs. But, as we all know, over my tenure as Minister of Transportation, the budget of this department has been reduced quite drastically by 25 percent of its original budget and despite these funding constraints, the focus of this department has been on ensuring that our existing system continues to be as well maintained as possible, and that opportunities for improvements are actively pursued.

The demands for the services of this department is increasing at a time when financial resources are decreasing and at a time when government structures and roles are undergoing a lot of major changes. The department's strategies have been consistent with, and support the government's Agenda for Change. By maximizing as much as possible; northern employment on department projects, this hopefully increases jobs and incomes for a lot of citizens, and we attempted to do that. We have been promoting the development of a new transportation infrastructure to try to address the needs for resource development.

There has been an increase in training programs in capital projects, as well as the support for resource development activities. We tried to address the health and wellness of individuals by promoting small boat safety programs; helping awareness programs, such as Students Against Drunk Drivers, and so forth. The creation of two new territories, we have been trying to complete the establishment of two new department structures, one in Nunavut and the continuation of the department here in the Western Northwest Territories.

We have been able to complete the Highway 3 reconstruction all the way up to Rae-Edzo, almost. Like I said, we have about nine more kilometres to go that will be finished off next spring. We have completed the airport reconstruction in Pelly Bay, Deline, Fort Good Hope and Marine facilities in Coral Harbour, Pangnirtung and Iqaluit. We are doing a hydrographic survey of the marine access corridor to the Keewatin and Rankin Inlet Harbour. The surveys are on the way of approaches to other Keewatin communities and both projects jointly are funded by the federal government and the territorial government.

The department continues to aggressively assure that northerners benefit as much as possible from transportation programs. Our attempt is to try to maintain and achieve greater than 90 percent for local and northern companies who are awarded transportation contracts in the future.

Training projects have been incorporated into some of our programs. For example, in the Pelly Bay and Deline airports, Pangnirtung marine infrastructure, as well as Coral Harbour marine projects; we have been trying to help out. Three northern residents have successfully completed their Mineral Waters and Masters program and are captains on the ferries in our ferry system. We have been able to try, on a national level, to represent the Northwest Territories at ministerial meetings and one of the issues is a national highway policy. We have tried to lobby and be an advocate for the Northwest

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Territories, particularly in the Nav Canada fee increases. We were able to successfully lobby for a reduction in those fees and will continue to monitor that situation.

With the Ministry of Public Works and Services, we have been able to lobby the Canadian Coast Guard Service so that icebreaker services will continue in the western Arctic. That was last year. We have met with the Yukon Minister of Community Services and Transportation in dealing with the Dempster Highway situation, and we were able to, concerning budget reduction for the operation and maintenance of that vital link, to the Mackenzie Delta.

So, there are different things we are attempting to do in the future and continue to develop two new department structures for the two new territorial governments. We, hopefully, will complete a highway strategy for the Ministers we will be meeting with and this will increase employment through the projects. We will look at the Motor Vehicles Act to increase awareness of the impaired driving.

In the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, which is a small department but very key, we are involved in a lot of very interesting land claims, self-government and constitutional development work. Our attempt here, our goal, is to have an effective system of government that will be established in the western Northwest Territories which has the support of the citizens in the western Northwest Territories.

In trying to address the Agenda for Change in this area, generally speaking, political stability is very important. This will bring improvement, hopefully, to the social and economic well-being across the board in the western Northwest Territories. The government priorities of reducing dependency in the creation of



two territories are directly supported by this department.

We have been engaged with the federal government, the aboriginal groups and the general public in talking about the constitution of the government and the discussion for the western Northwest Territories. We have worked with the federal government in conjunction with other departments, like the Financial Management Board Secretariat and the Department of Finance, on funding issues related to implementation of land claims, treaty entitlement and self-government agreements.

Mr. Chairman, one of my great interests in coming to Cabinet was to work with aboriginal people and northern people in the west on the development of the new constitution to serve our people in the future. Constitutional discussions attract both strong opinions and indifferences. I understand people want to focus on jobs and other pressing issues and, to a great deal, I agree. However, with the challenges of public government and aboriginal self-government before us, I feel no less strongly a commitment today to the constitutional process here in the west than during my first days as a Cabinet Member. Mr. Chairman, when I was elected by the people of the Nahendeh to represent them, I tried to work as hard as I could to be honest and open with everybody. I think I have done that with the Members of the Legislative Assembly and with that I would like to thank you. Mahsi cho.

--Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Now I would like to recognize Mr. Arlooktoo.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the first few days of our mandate two years ago, I believe everybody will recall the presentation I was given to all MLAs on the state of affairs in the Northwest Territories. We were told by the presenters, the senior staff of the government that we were faced with rapid population growth, housing problems, health concerns, economic and very serious fiscal issues. I think for everybody the excitement and euphoria of being newly elected quickly ended on that day. The presentation gave us an accurate picture of the challenges faced by the Northwest Territories, and to me, as a newly elected leader. It was clear then that if we continued down the path the territories was going the Northwest

Territories would have been left financially bankrupt with no real solutions for the root cause of the problems that we face. Again, that day has left an impression on me that I will never forget and I believe most Members of the House are in the same boat. So with that, I agreed to move forward with an aggressive financial plan despite what the obvious political consequences of drastic action.

Mr. Chairman, I have tried to work hard to show respect for the trust people have placed in me when they placed me as Minister. Again, I would like to point out, the job as Minister has been made a lot easier by the commitment and positive attitude of the staff that work for me, especially in my ministerial office and also in Public Works and Services and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

One of the three portfolios that I hold, Mr. Chairman, is Public Works and Services. The Department of Public Works and Services was established to provide support services to all departments of government. Public Works and Services has an internal function. Its goal is satisfying the needs of planning departments and promoting efficiency and effectiveness in overall government operations. By being lean, efficient and focusing on client service, the entire government benefits and money is freed up to deliver programs that have a direct impact on the standard of living on all northerners.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to quickly go through some of the successes that the Department of Public Works and Services has been able to achieve. Firstly, Mr. Chairman, the department contributed generously to the fighting of the deficit, and we have reduced our budget within the infrastructure envelope. In doing that, we have de-layered management by 50 percent, and along with the staffing reductions that we had to do, we did incur some layoffs, ninety-three in 1996-97 and 49 in 1997-98. But we are proud to say, despite the pain that this has put some through, there was little disruption in service.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Public Works and Services was also charged with some of the privatization initiatives which was our government's priority. Systems and Communication has been privatized, almost wholly. Vehicle Maintenance functions have been privatized and the privatization of Petroleum Products Division. We are anticipating an implementation plan by the end of this month. The Department of Public Works and Services in the user-pay/user-say initiative has transferred \$23 million to

departments and those are for buying services, mostly from the private sector.

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Mr. Chairman, the Department of Public Works and Services has also been very active in the interdepartmental committee work on such things as incremental infrastructure with the federal government and NTI. We have recently finalized procedures for Article 24.

Finally, in Public Works and Services, Mr. Chairman, we have very recently announced a \$7 million investment for Keewatin pipelines on a lease-to-own basis which will result in long-term savings which will also lower the cost of living in that region and in Nunavut in general.

In the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, I was appointed as Minister responsible in early 1996, and I have tried to respond to all concerns, guidance and questions from Members of the House as well as from community leaders, local housing organizations and our housing clients. I firmly believe housing is a corner stone of building a healthy society. Over the course of my tenure as Minister responsible for housing, I have guided the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to closely follow the goals and objectives of the Government of the Northwest Territories building the economy, social development and the creation of two new territories.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to go through some of the successes the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation has been able to achieve.

In the area of community empowerment, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation assists 47 local housing organizations which are, in effect, local people running the housing programs using local knowledge and staff. We have also assisted communities in giving them responsibility to increasing community delivery of the northern housing programs. We have recently assisted eight communities in having them amalgamate the hamlet or band amalgamation with the housing function. We also have 19 communities that deliver some of the housing programs through the hamlet or through the bands.

Mr. Chairman, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is also very proud of Plan 2000 which, as you know, is a plan to improve housing to 2,000 families by the year 2000 and these families that we

have committed to assist are over and above the normal work that the Housing Corporation does each year. In the first year we delivered 600 units, this past year, 322 were brand new houses. Mr. Chairman, we are also proud of the fact that the Housing Corporation has signed a 40-year agreement with the CMHC to transfer the social housing responsibilities to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chairman, as Minister of the Housing Corporation, I was pleased to be able to respond to the MLAs' concerns about the rent scale, including our rent scale moratorium of Phase 3, and this is an issue that I think is important for us to keep discussing. Along with them, Mr. Dent and Mr. Ng, have been involved in examining the overall impact that subsidies have on income support, et cetera.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I have tried my best as a Minister and I appreciate the support of my colleagues in what we have been trying to achieve over the last couple of years, especially my colleagues in Cabinet. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. I recognize the Honourable Charles Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to report to the committee today on progress made within each of my portfolios in working towards the three core priorities of our government, improving economic and social conditions and the creation of two new territories.

Mr. Chairman, the responsibilities of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment cover a wide range from early childhood through kindergarten to grade 12 and post secondary education and training and continuing opportunities for life long learning and cultural development. Programs and services in these areas are key in this government's strategies to increase knowledge, improve skills and build capacity at the community and regional levels. Given the scope of the department's responsibilities and the time available, I will try to touch on the few most significant indicators of progress.

In early childhood, we now have 65 centres across the Northwest Territories providing spaces for over 1,350 children with support programs targeted at improving the quality of programs, ensuring child

safety and helping staff improve their skills and knowledge. We have a subsidy program for low income earners, and in the corporation with the Department of Health and Social Services, we have introduced the healthy children's initiative to ensure early and accurate identification of children at risk and the development of effective community- based programming designed to improve their opportunities for success.

Mr. Chairman, access to quality education continues to improve. In the kindergarten to grade 12 system, we have focused efforts in five key areas: extension of secondary school education into more communities, curricula development, refinement of school financing, facility upgrading and student improvement. This has resulted in over 30 extensions of new curriculum for science, from kindergarten to grade six, for math from kindergarten to grade nine, as well as Dene Kede and Inuuqatigiit programs; continuing refinements in the school funding formulas; six new schools and 14 renovation projects are either complete or under way. Most importantly the continuing increase in our graduation rates.

We now have over 17,000 in our schools and each year more of them graduate. The growth in numbers of graduates is not as quick as I would like to see, but the trend is positive. We must build on a solid foundation of quality programs, teacher excellence and effective student support in order to continue to improve results.

Like many northerners, I am concerned that the continuing growth in student numbers will continue to impact on the pupil/teacher ratio. This may make the process of improving results more difficult.

In postsecondary education and training, enrolment of northerners in colleges and universities have since 1991 nearly doubled from 1,107 to 2,034. Aboriginal students now make up 56 percent of those receiving assistance. We have now completed the process of dividing Arctic College into two public colleges, Aurora College serving the western Northwest Territories and Nunavut Arctic College serving the Nunavut regions.

We are making progress towards the goal of increased jobs and reduced dependency. The delivery of the Canada/Northwest Territories Infrastructure Program has already resulted in more than \$17 million in projects in our communities and the creation of over 1,300 short and long term jobs.

Other initiatives aimed at increasing jobs and reducing dependency include the Investing In People Program, which is expected to include more than 200 participants in 21 communities this year alone.

The Working Together Creating Opportunities for Students and Youth programs have helped northern employers provide more than 8,000 work weeks for northern students and youth in the past six months alone.

The Nunavut Unified Human Resources Development Strategy and our departmental coordination of the preparation of Inuit employment plans has successfully established plans and actions which will increase northern employment in future years, as will the Western Northwest Territories Strategy, which should be completed before the end of the calendar year.

The entire Income Support Program has been reorganized to be more effective. Access to the program is now conditional on being involved in the community through productive choices. For the most part, this has been very successful for participants, communities and financially. We have worked with communities to build up community capacity to deliver the program, and I am pleased to say, more than 25 communities have taken on the program delivery responsibility. We have seen increasing self-sufficiency residents and a reduction in overall payments.

Accomplishment in Culture and Heritage Programs are diverse and cover a vast range of activity. With the focus on establishing effective working relationships with a number of aboriginal organizations, the far reaching results include the upgrading and expansion of the museum in Iqaluit, the development of a community museum in Baker Lake, repatriating a 19th century teepee which once belonged to an important Dogrib elder, supporting the rediscovery of the technology involved in birch bark canoe construction. Recording heritage sites and associated traditional knowledge in the outer Mackenzie Delta, recording traditional travel routes to the barrens and planning a language and cultural centre in Tuktoyaktuk.

Many of the responsibilities of the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment overlap with those of the Minister responsible for Youth. Perhaps, one of the most exciting developments emerging from a cooperative approach with other Ministers will be the integrated strategy for children and youth to be

completed in the coming year. Working together with our Youth Employment Strategy as I mentioned earlier, has generated employment opportunities for over 800 students and youth in all regions of the Northwest Territories.

Turning to another area of responsibility, as Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, I can report continuing advances in its record of strong corporate and customer performance. With a seasoned staff of 285 northerners of whom, more than 40 percent are indigenous or long-term residents, the corporation is striving to set strategic direction that will guide it beyond the establishment of the two new territories.

As of June of next year, the Power Corporation will have paid down all of the \$53 million of debt it assumed when the Government of the Northwest Territories bought its share of the former Northern Canada Power Commission. It has also returned in that same period dividends totalling \$29 million to the government. I have given notice that I will this week introduce legislation to keep the corporation whole and owned by the future Western and Nunavut Territorial Governments. The corporation is engaged in exciting new developments with the expansion of district heating systems across the north as a commercial way of tapping heat from diesel generating engines, plus significantly reducing greenhouse gases. A five-year program to assess every power plant in the system to inventory of environmental status and planned cleanup action where necessary. Significant progress in waste oil management, PCB removal, community site improvements and work in cooperation with the Northern Science Institutes on the development of wind technology in the Arctic.

Switching hats for the final time, you will recall in my role as Minister responsible for Western Transition Planning, last week I tabled the Action Plan for the Transition to a New Western Territory which was prepared in consultation with Members of the Western Caucus. The plan is an important step in the process to establish a stable and secure new Western Territory. I look forward to working with my colleagues in this House as well as other western leaders to continue to implement the plan.

This government is facing with tremendous challenges over the next two years, Mr. Chairman. In meeting those challenges, it is essential that we not forget our primary purpose is in the delivery of programs and services to northerners.

We have come a long way, but there is much left to do. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you in achieving this government's priorities. Mr. Chairman, I would like to publicly thank the two senior people who have helped make sure I can take credit for making some progress, the deputy minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Mark Cleveland and the chair and CEO of the Power Corporation, Mr. Pierre Alvarez. The teams they lead work hard to make all three of us look good.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to close with a quick thank you to each of the Members in this Assembly for your support and guidance over the past two years.

Mr. Chairman, the style of government we enjoy is unique. Nowhere else in North America are Ordinary Members so involved in the decision-making process. I have to say I have enjoyed it, except for one particularly hot issue. The tremendous support and advice from the Standing Committee on Social Programs, I thank them for their help. A particular note of appreciation, Mr. Chairman, must also go to my Cabinet colleagues and the Premier for all of their assistance. Thank you.

--Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. General comments are now concluded. We will now proceed with  
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questions to the Ministers. First is the Honourable Don Morin, the Premier. I would like to remind Members that the chair will be keeping track of the number of questions each Member has asked. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have a question, but I wish to make a motion to ask that the Ministers take the witness chair?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Your motion is out of order. Procedures to ask the Minister if they wish to take the witness chair is up to Ministers as to whether they would want to or not. So, with that, I recognize you if you have a question, Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would you ask the Minister if he would take the witness chair?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. I plan to do that as soon as somebody puts forward a question. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin with several questions to the Premier as outlined in the format that we have agreed to. Yes, I would like to begin now, if that is OK, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Morin, would you like to take the witness chair?

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am fine right where I am.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. You may proceed with your question, Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I said in my earlier statement concerning this government, it seems that the government is being painted fairly or unfairly in the public eye as greedy and unseemingly underhanded. That is not acceptable. Some of my questions that I will begin with today are on the accountability and the policies of this government with the Premier as the head of that government. Will the Premier address the issue of the new reliance of using Request for Proposals as a seemingly easy way to circumvent the public tendering process? My first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Requests for proposals do not circumvent any tender public process. It is part of the public tender process, and we have different ways of tendering contracts. There is public tender, requests for proposals, negotiated contracts and sole-sourced. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Picco, your second question.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, from the answers I am getting it seems like deja vu from being in the House. My next question, then, will be, will the Premier direct his Ministers and himself to try and answer questions in the House in a serious and constructive way without the excess verbiage?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Next question, that one is not worth answering, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Questions to the Premier. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Mr. Chairman, do we have the honour bound asking a serious question instead of trying to dodge, like I said in my Member's Statement, is there constructive criticism? When I sit across this House and I ask a serious question, I would like a serious answer. So my question to the Premier was, will he take those questions seriously and not in a flippant manner? I am not asking him in a flippant manner. I am asking him in a serious manner. His response to me, Mr. Chairman, as you just heard, was, I do not think that was a serious question, I will not answer it. It was a serious question and I am asking it seriously. I am not going to repeat it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Could I ask the Members to please relax. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am still waiting for the question. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Questions for the Premier. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

A point of clarification. If I ask that question, it will be a third question that I have used, and I am not going to play that game. I asked the question, I asked it twice. I asked the question, are you going to respond?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

The Chair would like some order, Mr. Picco. According to the procedure we agreed as a committee, clarification of questions are questions. You are entitled to five more questions, Mr. Picco. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will continue with my questions. Will the Premier address the ongoing charges of public calls for resignations of individual Ministers with constructive reasons why or why not? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Members heard me speak when we started off this process today, I am very proud to be working with this team of Ministers I have. They have the full confidence of myself and the full confidence of the government. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Questions to the Premier. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, will the Premier look into why northern companies bidding on territorial contracts under requests for proposals are losing out to southern firms?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Member is well aware, we as a government, support northern businesses and northern companies and we would prefer that the majority of contracts, if not all the

contracts, go to northern companies. So, if he can be specific on which contracts, because some do go south, which could be because of the  
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price. But if he could be more specific, then I would be pleased to look into it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Questions to the Premier. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have provided some information to the Minister responsible for contracts and I would ask that Minister to provide that list, which Mr. Morin saw on Thursday or Friday last week in the House. Those are the contracts I am talking about. There was a list of them, so I think he knows what I am talking about. I am not going to ask that question again. I want to ask another question. Will the Premier finally direct his staff to allow for the publishing of all employees' salaries over \$100,000, including benefits, like other jurisdictions do in this country, including Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta, and not continue to say we need legal opinions, like we have heard for the past year and a half? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I have stated before in this House, we are looking into that and we are gauging how it will affect the morale of our employees and how it will affect their lives. The Northwest Territories is a lot different than Ontario and we also requested a legal opinion on it. I will make a commitment to the Member that we will work on this issue with the Finance Minister, Mr. Todd, who is in charge of the Financial Management Board Secretariat. As the Members are fully aware, our plates are fairly full and I admit this is one of the issues we did let slip. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Picco, you have two questions left. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I take this forum very seriously and responsibly. I am trying to ask constructive questions. I am not doing it in a flippant manner. Earlier today, and on other occasions when I have asked questions that were in and under the mandate of a particular Minister, on numerous occasions those questions were taken as notice. An example today was a simple question on, can a Minister or Ordinary Members of this Assembly, or companies they have an interest in, receive loans from the Aurora Fund? That question was taken as notice. So my question to the Minister is, would he review, by looking through the Hansard with his numerous staff, to find out how many questions were being taken to notice and maybe talk to his Ministers to see if those questions could be answered during question period?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not believe that it is the Ministers' intent that Ministers of this government intend to side step any question that Members have asked in this Legislative Assembly. That is how come the rules of the Legislative Assembly are set out as such that Ministers may take questions as notice, in order to provide the Members with exact detail and specific answers to those questions that deserve good answers. Any question that is taken as notice as the rules state are answered, and we always follow up with the answers. So I would be pleased to make sure the Minister follows up with the Hansard and he had made a commitment, I believe, to follow up with an answer tomorrow or the next day. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Questions to the Premier. Your last question, Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have one final question and then I would like after that, a question to know from you, Mr. Chairman, if after all the Members have asked their questions would there be an opportunity to go back and ask some more? Because I think a couple of mine were lost through clarifications. My final question in this round is, will the Premier make notes and minutes, or an overview, of the discussions that take place with his Premiers

Forum on the Economy with different business people in the territories as promised in this House available to the public? Would he be able to tender those, or table those documents in the House for people to have an overview or review, instead of just reporting about the gist of conversations? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have started after the last panel meeting having a press conference and making a press release after the meeting, and I would be pleased to continually do that. I believe what the Member is asking for is a report on the Premier's panel meeting. We will probably do that Saturday afternoon after we finish meeting. I usually request the panel to stay around to do that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. For clarification for the Members, there is no opportunity to return for further questioning after you have finished your eight questions and seeking clarification is a question. So, now I would like to recognize Mr. Ootes, Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question deals with an issue we had discussed and which I have made some statements on in the House and asked the Premier on before. This is in regard to the transfer of federal civil servants that are located outside of the north that may be located in Ottawa that they be transferred to the north. In the course of our questions of the Premier, the Premier stated that the motion that we passed in this House was on June 3, but the Premier stated that this was an issue that the government already was working on before, and I wonder if the Premier could tell us what work has been done on that end?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Do I understand two questions there?

**MR. OOTES:**

One question, what work has been done in regard to the motion that we passed by the government?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have worked with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development through the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakwi, working on trying to compile the list of names of or positions in Ottawa that reflect on business happening in the Northwest Territories. We have also met with the Minister responsible, Jane Stewart, and requested her to transfer those positions to the Northwest Territories, and we have a commitment from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to work with us to accomplish that. Thank you.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Question number two, Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion referred to the request being that an inventory of all positions be undertaken and, as I heard the Premier, he is working with officials of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Minister of Indian Affairs. Could the Premier tell us if he is also asking for an inventory of employees that are located in Ottawa or elsewhere in southern Canada that work for other departments, other than the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, that could potentially be moved to the north?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We also are working with our Member of Parliament, Ethel Blondin-Andrew on doing exactly what the Member had requested of identifying the positions that could be relocated to the north. We also know that the mayor of Hay River has requested that Fisheries and Oceans positions that effect the north be moved to Hay River as well. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Questions to the Premier. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A different subject. I wonder if the Premier could tell us if he will undertake to do an analysis study of the negative effects of the elimination of a centralized personnel secretariat?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government has an ongoing process of dealing with personnel issues with the departments, and I do not think I can make a commitment to undergoing an in-depth analysis or study or whatever personnel to effect, negative effects. I have not seen any. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Questions to the Premier. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an issue of great concern, I think because we need to know, one of the problems I see is that individuals applying for positions with the territorial government have to run around to different departments and that is one particular problem for example, and that is why I wondered if the government will undertake to perhaps it does not need to be an in-depth analysis, but certainly some sort of review to see what the impact has been of the loss of centralized personnel secretariat?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all knew when we gave the management responsibilities to the departments that people would have to go to individual departments to apply for positions. We knew that. So, I do not understand fully where the Member is coming from. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**



Thank you, Mr. Morin. Questions to the Premier. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government staff have undergone a tremendous downsizing and with the upcoming creation of the two new territories which were a result in Yellowknife of more staff losses. We recently had the document on division and the creation of two new territories. In that, it was identified that there were a potential 289 positions still to be transferred to Nunavut. That naturally leaves a negative feeling with the staff. Will the Premier tell us when the staff in Yellowknife may know exactly which positions will be affected by that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now through the transition document that was presented to the Interim Commissioner as well as the federal government, basically everything right now, Mr. Ootes, is hovering until we get commitment from the federal government that they are going to pick up the bill. Mr. Todd and Mr. Kakfwi are leaving this weekend to meet with Mr. Martin and Ms. Stewart. So, we cannot say specifically right now, which staff are to be affected. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Questions to the Premier. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Whenever this government does get a commitment from the federal government on the questions that are outstanding in the Premier's mind, could the government act expeditiously in order to inform those individuals that will be affected by division?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a moral responsibility as well as a professional responsibility to our staff. We will be letting people know at the

soonest possible dates, and as soon as we know who is affected by the creation of the two new territories. We would undertake to do that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Question number eight, Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The beginning of our term there was a lot of discussion regarding devolution of power from Ottawa to Yellowknife. In those days we referred to it as the Northern Accord. I have not seen a lot of progress on this. Could the Premier tell us, are we still pursuing devolution from Ottawa of control over resources and so forth and where is that at?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. That was question number nine, seven I should say. Thank you. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

On the whole devolution issue, I have asked Mr. Kakfwi to lead that file, and he is working right now with the Department of Indian Affairs on the transfer of those people to the Northwest Territories that have responsibilities in the Northwest Territories. We are exploring a few other departments as well to transfer those people to the Northwest Territories. Through meetings with the Aboriginal Summit we could not get them to agree on devolution to the Northwest Territories. Like I have said before, I am not going to go whipping a dead horse or working where I have too much work

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to do, we all do. Unless people in the north are willing to work together to bring the decision-making ability to the Northwest Territories, it is not going to happen. Indian Affairs has said that the aboriginal people must be on-side to do it and if they are not on-side then I will put it off until another time and tackle it then. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Questions for the Premier. I recognize Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some questions for the Premier on the issue of communications and

communications strategy. We have had a very full agenda as an Assembly and one of the things we have not done in my opinion, as well as we could have, is the whole issue of communicating and having a communication strategy. Could the Premier indicate how he intends to proceed from here on in on the issue of a communication strategy with the new items on the agenda such as division? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past, the government had a communication strategy per se, but there was never a coordinated effort from government to communicate with the people of the Northwest Territories. We have been working within government to develop a communication strategy and to coordinate the activities of government departments. We now have a public affairs or a person in every department that is responsible for public affairs and communication. We have a formation across the departmental communication working group as well. We are ready now in order for anything to be communicated from this government. It is just a matter of getting the people to do it. The guide and the guidelines are also all developed. Communication as well, have a new employee newsletter. We have a home page on the Internet. The key is that we do have all government departments working together to communicate. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Miltenberger, question number two.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of a communication strategy, while it is a broad issue, there are a lot of specific components in that. One of them is that the message that we want to send and the target group. Could the Premier indicate how he intends to specialize the method or tailor the message for the target groups like the staff, the public, and the government? When I think of the public, I think of north and south, as well so that we are not just sending one blanket message, but we are tailoring it to where the audience is. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is absolutely correct. We have to tailor our messages to different audiences, especially in the Northwest Territories. Some people are available to them, the web sites so, that is one way of doing that. We also have employee newsletters, and we also have the use of aboriginal languages, is another way that is very important and in the southern Communication Act, as well we work with developing working relationships with southern newspapers and making ourselves available so we can communicate throughout southern Canada as well. Dealing with all the different people is challenging, but we are able to move ahead on that issue now.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate in his opinion from this point on what are the key issues that he sees as critical that we communicate well on? Once again, to all the target audiences that we just talked about? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The critical issues that this government has to communicate, not only with its employees, but people of the Northwest Territories, our constituents, southern Canada and even internationally, that the Northwest Territories is coming of age. It is the last frontier of this country. We are ready and we are on the verge of moving ahead to improve our economic conditions in the Northwest Territories. We are open for business, but when you come into the Northwest Territories to do business that means partnerships and that means that you do business with northern residents and northern residents have to benefit. As well, we do in the Northwest Territories have social conditions and social problems that double, statistically, the rest of the country, but we are working to solve those problems and we are moving ahead on the creation of two new territories. So there are many issues underneath, for example, improving economic

conditions, improving social conditions and preparing for the creation of two new territories.

Mr. Miltenberger, I could be talking for a long time about each and every one of those, and I think it is very clear in the south we communicate that the Northwest Territories is a political entity on its own. We do have our own Legislature, we are capable of making our own decisions in the north and we are able and willing to do that, and we will do it. We do not need bureaucrats in Ottawa to do that for us. We are at the table with the other provincial jurisdictions, and we plan on staying there and making sure our voice is heard and the message from the north is heard. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Question number four, Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Premier that this is not the forum to get into a detailed discussion about a communication strategy or the issues. So I would like to ask the Premier, based on what we have learned in the first two years of our term and given the issues we have to deal with before us and the fact that planning is under way, would the Premier be willing to share this plan with the Assembly, with Caucus, so that we could in fact see what is being proposed and maybe provide some valuable input on key issues or things that may have been overlooked?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Premier.

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**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You should have copies of that material by tomorrow at the latest, late tomorrow. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Premier indicate then is this information we are going to be getting by

tomorrow, is that going to be in a format that is in a draft stage or a final document that is just there for our information?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Some of the things are in final stage that are dealing with government and how government deals with each other through different departments. But the communications strategy, as well as the background to it and all that information is always a liquid document that should be added to and constantly updated when new ideas are brought into it. It is never a finished document so it is constantly added to, so Members have ability to have input into that. If we could find time for a meeting, there was a commitment by myself made to meet with Members on this issue as well. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Miltenberger, question number six.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to just elaborate a bit on one target audience and that is one that has been, I think, severely put under stress by a lot of the restructuring and downsizing and amalgamation and such, and that is the critical element of our organization, that is our staff. The Premier indicated we are doing an employee newsletter which, I suppose, is a good first step, but could the Premier indicate how he intends to develop that a little more fully so there is a better coordination between departments on various initiatives, communication with the union and that whole host of areas? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have requested our employees to submit recommendations to us or let us know what they think of the newsletter and how we can change it or work with it to make it better and make it so they can have some ownership of it. We have it off and running already and so far I hear it has

been fairly successful and hopefully, when we hear back from our employees, we will get more input into it as well. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Questions to the Premier, Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could just go back to the issue of the public in the south and possibly governments in the south, when we look at an issue of critical importance like the diamond sorting. How does the Premier envision coordinating that strategy to push that issue to its fullest possible extent so that we can inform people what we are doing as well as, I would hope, gather support for our position of a northern-based valuation system in a community in the Northwest Territories?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are at present living it and working it daily. As Members know, our Ministers have become very vocal on the whole diamond issue and they have been very aggressive. That is part of the strategy to do that in order to catch national attention, and we have to work when we travel into the south to make sure that we do get press. We are getting press when we go south now, to make southern Canadians aware of the whole issue. But as I said earlier this evening, Minister Kakfwi and Minister Todd are going to meet with Minister Martin and Minister Stewart on Monday, and it depends on what comes out of that meeting, but there is a strategy in place that we either take option B or option C, for example. If the federal government is not too cooperative, then we will do other things, but if they are cooperative then we will continue down that merry road. As I say, it is fluid, it is a liquid document and we have an opportunity in Vancouver in the middle of next month at the APEC meeting also to get major press on the whole diamond issue. It depends on the responses that we get from the federal government that drives what else we do. So we do have the contacts in southern Canada to be able to get press on this issue to educate southern Canadians. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Questions for the Premier, I have Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Ningark and Mr. Roland, in that order. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the elimination of the Personnel Secretariat, the Premier had indicated that he was going to make the Ministers and deputy ministers more accountable for Affirmative Action particularly during his staff's evaluation. What I would like to know is whether the Premier has actually used Affirmative Action and its increase or its decline within his assessments of his deputy ministers?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like other Members here I thought that we were trying to improve the operations of the government in the future and it is very difficult to understand how we are doing that by simply answering yes or no to questions when people are trying to be serious here. So, would the Premier elaborate on the evaluations of his deputy ministers where he took the increase or decrease in Affirmative Action, could he indicate where this was done, no I guess he cannot do that, but could he indicate whether there was actually increases or decreases since he instituted his new way of dealing with affirmative action?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have already told all the deputy ministers through my secretary to Cabinet to Page 63

make them all aware of when we do their evaluation. The secretary to the Cabinet has done the majority of the paperwork already on that evaluation, that the

Affirmative Action statistics within their department will affect their performance and affect their performance pay as part of their contract, as well as I would like to see plans within the departments of how a career pattern can happen so Affirmative Action people or northern people can move up the ladder into senior management as well. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since the Personnel Secretariat has been stripped of its duties and virtually eliminated, there are no independent people in the interviewing process. Would the Premier consider establishing an independent monitoring agency such as people put forward from the aboriginal organizations to sit independently throughout the hiring process?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Could you turn the mike back to Mr. Erasmus?

**MR. ERASMUS:**

I was just going to add to ensure fairness of the process.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. In the communities of the Northwest Territories there is aboriginal representation on the hiring committee at the community level and there is also an appeal process into FMBS as well. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Questions to the Premier. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most senior staff members have a conflict of interest clause or clause in their contract so that they cannot go into business or take another job which is directly in conflict with the job that they have just held within the territorial government, they cannot use the knowledge they

have gained in their new job, and they are not supposed to. But we have some sort of a not withstanding clause in the constitution that has been used to get out of the policy, and we understand that there are many ex-senior government employees who have asked for and been released from this clause in their contract. So I would like to know in what types of situations would it be appropriate for someone to learn a bunch of information and get trained by the territorial government, gain a bunch of knowledge in a certain area and then to turn around and get a better paying job in the private sector?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that managers' handbook that Mr. Erasmus claims he is referring to managers that leave the government, senior managers, it is to make sure that they do not take the knowledge or the words that they have had at government and talk about them when they leave. In some cases because the Northwest Territories is fairly small, Mr. Chairman, the deputy ministers when they leave the government they ultimately end up on contract one way or the other, in some cases working back for the government. But also, that is not to stop people from seeking active living in their communities as well. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of the Northern Accord, I heard the Premier indicate that he did not want to flog a dead horse or something to that effect. What I would like to know is what was done to advance the Northern Accord after Mr. Bourque unfortunately passed away, and he had been working in this area. What has been done since then?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair, in the whole devolution issue, we have met with a previous consultant that worked with this government dealing with the aboriginal

groups mostly in the western Arctic because they are the ones that had the concern on devolution. We have met with them and also from meeting that I have had with the Aboriginal Summit, it has been made to me and what I have heard and got out the minutes of the assemblies is that they are not interested in devolution at this time. They want to continue to negotiate self government.

We have a lot of work to do as a government. We cannot continue down a road unless we can get some achievements and get something happening. We are working with DIAND right now on the transfer of employees to the Northwest Territories that work for them and for some other government departments.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Question number six, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Premier recently formed a Unity Committee. We all know that the western Arctic is still trying to formulate a constitution of its own. Some people could say that it is all fractured and very divided. Why should we go off galivanting to unify Canada when we should be trying the western Northwest Territories?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Unity Committee is formed by this Legislative Assembly. It is a special committee of this House. I do not think the committee has any attention of galivanting off to save this country. Let me assure the Member that if we do not send a clear message out to the rest of Canada how northerners feel. That is our responsibility, what they feel that this country should be like moving into the next century. How would she work together? How the provinces should work together? How the provincial and federal governments should work together? How they feel about Quebec as well? I think we have that responsibility and I would not call it galivanting.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Question number seven, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have heard many times that the Nunavut process is behind in progress. The Finance Minister and others are trying to negotiate new formula financing arrangements. We have also heard from the

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federal government that there is no new money to put into governing what is now the Northwest Territories, and what will be two new territories. I would like to know what does the Premier intend to do if the federal government does not offer enough money to properly fund the operations and maintenance of the two new governments in Nunavut and the western territories?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a commitment from the federal government to open the table to negotiate with our government the funding of the new Nunavut government. We do also have an agreement with the federal government on funding of self-government to negotiate MOU for self-government costs in the Western Territory, as some call Denedeh or Nahendeh. I think we as a government and Members of this Assembly have to have a positive outlook that Canada, as a federal government will live up to its responsibilities. They are the party that signed with the Inuit, the Nunavut accord. They have the responsibility for paying the claim that they signed. There is no other jurisdiction in this country that has been expected to pay for a land claim on the backs of its people. We as the north should not be expected to either.

So I am positive that the federal government will live up to its legal obligations to the people of the north and pay for Nunavut and the new Western Territory. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Your last question, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do like to be optimistic and positive. I certainly do not expect to pay for self-

government and Nunavut on the backs of the people in the Western Territory so that the level of programs and services decreases. I would like to know what the Premier intends to do if the federal government does not offer enough money to properly fund the operations and maintenance of two new governments in 1999?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we have to do is move ahead in a positive manner and with positive thinking that the federal government will live up to its obligations of paying for Nunavut and the new Western Territory, the incremental and transitional costs. We will have to at some point, and we already do have people working on that issue, have plan B in place. At this time we are looking at only one, I guess an end to this issue. That is just the end that the federal government should live up to its responsibilities and pay for incremental and transitional costs for Nunavut as well as for the new Western Territory.

That may mean, Mr. Chairman, we will work and we are committed to working with the federal government to solve their problem. But we feel it is important and it will benefit northerners that if we work with them we can solve the problem. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Questions to the Premier. I will now recognize Mr. Ningark followed by Mr. Roland and Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the people of the western Arctic talk about diamond mining sorting and so on, plus recruiting the existing PY's to Nunavut come 1999. We in Nunavut area continue to see high suicide rates, high rate of unemployment, high dependency on social assistance and high birth rates. I also heard many times that the western membership do not want to pay for the creation of Nunavut. By the same token, when the people of Nunavut decided to have the creation of Nunavut, that was a dream and aspiration.

In that regard, they realize that once Nunavut is created, the people of Nunavut would fill out the jobs

in the Nunavut government. Mr. Chairman, I think we, the Members of the Nunavut Caucus have sat back to continue to hear that Nunavut is getting all kinds of financial help. By the same token, the western membership talked about recruiting headquarters jobs, existing jobs to Nunavut area, at the same time talking about mining and diamond sorting. Mr. Chairman, I do not think the people of Nunavut are about to compromise the ambition of the west for your dreams and aspirations.

I believe that we have qualified people in Nunavut area as we debate the issue of employment, economic development, social problems and so on of the Northwest Territories. There are people in Nunavut area that are in training. There are people in the Nunavut area that are qualified, but not able to get a job in that area because few jobs are really for our taking. There is a very low turnover in Nunavut area. At the same time we have heard Members talk about Affirmative Action Plan. The Members who talked about Affirmative Action Plan questioning the government. Does the government recognize the Affirmative Action Program of this government?

The government has indicated they have. There are people who are qualified and eligible under the Affirmative Action Program who are ready and willing to work for the Nunavut government once the Nunavut is created.

People of Nunavut, when they decided that once Nunavut is created, they were united as one group. Because they realize that once the Nunavut is created, job opportunities and so on would be theirs in their own area. My question to the Premier is, once Nunavut is created, will you assure this committee, the people of Nunavut who are qualified to take on a job with the government and those who are eligible on their Affirmative Action Program will be given the first crack at the job. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are only one party in the creation of Nunavut. There is the Interim Commissioner and the federal government as well. They will have a lot of say over that whole issue. What you said, John, makes sense to me. If there is Inuit people there and they are qualified to do the job, they should have the job. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Ningark, question number two.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Premier recognize that we have a high rate of suicide in the Nunavut area? The unemployment in the Nunavut area is much higher than of the west? The dependency on social assistance

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program in the Nunavut area is much high than of the west? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have the statistics for east/west split on the suicide and unemployment and those issues. I believe the Member is correct, but I would have to check for sure.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Questions to the Premier. Mr. Ningark, question number three.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will change to another topic in the area of employment. In my area of Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, Natilikmiot riding, people have indicated to me, not only ordinary people those that are in the area of leadership at the local level at the regional meetings and so forth that Natilikmiot area is a have-not area. I do not have the information to agree to that philosophy of belief. If in fact that area is a have-not community or area, will the Premier declare the Natilikmiot area an economic development zone that needs attention in terms of creating jobs and applying the economic development? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have zones through economic development, possibly when the Minister of Economic Development has an opportunity could explain it. My understanding is Yellowknife and major development areas are zone one. Possibly Fort Smith or another regional centre would be zone two. Because there is less economic activity and then the region Kitikmeot, I believe you said, would be zone three. Tuktoyaktuk would be zone three, Fort Resolution, communities like that would be zone three where there is a higher unemployment. All those zones are developed from the unemployment statistics and the social assistance statistics and what is happening in the area. They do get a higher priority for economic initiatives than the other ones. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Questions for the Premier. I would now like to recognize Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the Premier would be in the line of principles. The Premier is the lead of the Executive Council, so called the head of government. I would like to know if the Premier has a set of guidelines that he has his Ministers follow in doing their work as Ministers? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The principles and what we stand for as a government is equity and fairness, government resources will be allocated fairly and equitably. Affordability and sustainability programs and services will respond first to basic needs and be affordable and sustainable. A balanced approach, activities will emphasize programs and services intended to prevent or reduce problems rather than just providing treatment. Northern benefits, northerners will benefit from the development of our resources and from all activities of the government. Shared responsibility, individual families and governments share responsibility for the well-being of their community and residence. Flexibility and stability, the government will be flexible in its approach to change and innovation to how things are done, but not at the expense of stability in programs and service and getting things done. Thank you.



**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have to read Hansard to get most of that. The Premier is stating, as he went through his answer. Do the Ministers follow that in all the decisions they make in all of their roles? They all follow that? The way they look at whether it be capital or O and M in communities or whatever. That is the guidelines that Cabinet has as a whole?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are the guiding principles that we do use in the development of the business plans and the development of the budgets of this government. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the Premier would be, a lot of times as we did in this Assembly, the 13th Assembly, when we stepped in there were previous agreements with other governments by the previous Assembly and we have stood by them. As we have heard, the cost of a lot of programs and services, contracts, are outstanding and we have continued with them. Is that the continued process that this, the 13th Assembly, uses when it comes to agreements with other governments and companies and contractors throughout the territories? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Normally, when the government enters into a contract for a certain length of time, we are tied by contractual law. That contract is there. We have to uphold it. As far as agreements and contracts which other governments, it would be the same. Contractual law would protect either government in an agreement.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Taking from the answer the Premier stated that agreements with previous governments that this government has signed on, for example, with the federal government and transfers and so on, it does not matter if they were signed in previous years before the life of this Assembly, they are considered to be existing and continuing? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I know, yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I ask that is in 1988, the Government of the Northwest Territories, along with the federal government, signed an agreement for two facilities. One the Inuvik hospital and the other the Iqaluit

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hospital. Judging from your response, I could be satisfied that this government will honour that agreement? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Guaranteed, Mr. Chairman. This government would honour that agreement unless the federal government and territorial government came to another agreement after that agreement, and they mutually agreed on something else, which I do not know if they did or did not. But we would honour any agreement that we signed unless the other party agreed with us to change or we agreed with them to change it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How would we as Members of this Assembly become aware of any possible changes that would come about with any other governments? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would check it out, and I will commit to the Member that I will make you aware if there is any changes from the original agreement or whether or not this government. The bottom line, is there going to be a hospital in Inuvik? That is what I am going to find out. If we are legally bound or not. If it is an agreement, a contractual agreement, then we are legally bound. But I do not know that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions further to that would be understanding there are possible changes, but to find out if there is going to be changes. If there has not been any change, but if there is, within the life of this Assembly, any possible changes to that agreement, how will we as Members of this Assembly become aware of those? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be the honourable thing for government to do. If you have an agreement with Health Canada and then through that transfer agreement you have signed and it is a public document you have signed as a government the building of two hospitals, for example, Iqaluit and Inuvik. If you have changed that agreement you have a moral responsibility as a government to let those people in those communities know because those people are expecting hospitals. They knew this was a public agreement, that is what they would be expecting. You have a moral responsibility to those

communities as well to talk to them if you are changing that agreement.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there are any changes or if there are to be any changes, will the communities and the Members affected be notified before any changes happen or would it be after the fact? Thank you.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not trying to be flippant or anything, but I do not really know the answer to that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. According to the list of Mr. Steen, the question Mr. Roland asked was the final question. I have Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the Premier is in regards to the accountability of this government, Members of Cabinet and also himself as Premier in regards to some of the activities that we see happening, especially in regards to capital projects and also expenditures that we see projects being moved, especially in regards to Ministers' ridings. I would like to ask the Premier, especially after the case of the motion that was passed of censure in this House and what has he done in regards to the motion, and also accountability of the Cabinet Members to this government and also what action has he taken as the Premier?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any movement of dollars within the government is following that motion that was passed in the Assembly. Any dollars that are moved within departments, it comes to FMBS. It is

accountable to FMBS. Ultimately it comes in through a supp through this House that you have just previously passed and that is the accountability to this House and the general public. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Question number two. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My second question to the Premier is, in regard to issues that are passed either through Member's statements, petitions, motions passed in committee of the whole and items that are of importance to the Members and their ridings. I would like to ask the Premier exactly what role does he play to ensure those motions, petitions and items are basically taken forth by Members through the processes that are available to us taken seriously and carried out in regard to the petitions, motions and demands that are made on us by our constituents to raise these issues in this House to ensure that they are carried out?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Mr. Chairman, we take all motions, and the motions in the committee of the whole that are normally recommendations, seriously. We look at those motions and recommendations from the Ordinary Members in the committee of the whole. We have the responsibility to manage government and manage within the fiscal boundaries that we have and in some cases, the recommendations we cannot follow through. We just do not have the dollars and we have set out an agenda and we continue down that road. Like I said earlier today, I know that some Members may feel at some point, they do not exactly get everything that they would like in their riding, but all ridings are basically the same. It is not an easy time to govern. It is not an easy time to be a Member of this Assembly. But, we try to treat everybody in a fair and equal manner and we have a process of doing things through committees and this Legislative Assembly, so that we have public accountability.

Thank you.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Question number three, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the priority items of this government, especially in relation to the government and this Assembly, is to work towards healthy communities and community-based program solving to assist communities in regard to community wellness. In the last two years, probably a lot of people, especially the Minister of Health and Social Services, are probably tired of hearing me harping over this issue. It is in regard to the TI'oondih Healing Society in which petitions were tabled in this House and a motion passed in committee of the whole, especially in the riding I come from, where there is a lot of support for this initiative to go forward.

I had a commitment from yourself, as the Premier, from Mr. Todd, as Minister of Finance, and Mr. Ng, Minister of Social Services, to work with the TI'oondih Healing Society and establish a committee. But the committee met for a brief period of time in which there was correspondence sent back and forth between the Gwich'in Tribal Council and this government and yourself, as the Premier, to ensure that this aspiration of the communities and program would be able to continue on and assist in the area of community wellness and community healing, but for some unforeseen reason it came to a complete halt and hit a brick wall.

I would like to ask the Premier, with these types of commitments that are made of Members and to organizations to work alongside this government on initiatives such as that, to assist communities and the regions for the well-being and the health of our residents, are those commitments honoured to ensure that they are concluded successfully? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I remember very clearly that we made a commitment to Mr. Krutko's riding and Mr. Krutko to have the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister of Finance work with his delegation from Fort McPherson to try to develop a process, or ways of solving the problem of the funding of the healing centre in his community of Fort McPherson. I would love to be able to sit here today and say to you, David, yes, we found whatever it took. \$1 million or \$1.5 million a year to operate that centre. But we just do not have the dollars. I am still

committed to working with your people to try and find those dollars. There are new initiatives coming through the federal government on community healing as well as income support and child poverty issues and child wellness issues that the federal government is reinvesting dollars into health.

My understanding as well is, there was a problem on the facility of being accredited, so we could put people there, so they would get the federal government to pay for it. We were unable to accomplish that, and I do not know why these meetings that we committed to, came to an end. I do not know that. The commitment was there for the finance Minister as well as the Minister of Health and Social Services to continue to work with your people and as far as I understand, the department officials met with the president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the chairperson of the Gwich'in Healing Society and the MLA from Mackenzie Delta to discuss the department's ability to fund the program. That was back in November, 1996. And then those people who came in with you to Yellowknife at that time, David, we had requested all that financial information about the healing camp and to date none of this information has been received. I will make that commitment to you to work with your people on this issue, but it is going to be a two way street so that we try to find...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

I would like order in the committee of the whole, please. The Honourable Premier is endeavouring to answer an honourable Member. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not willing to sit back and right this off. Drug and alcohol programs, healing programs, families; we have enough social problems in the Northwest Territories. There has to be different ways to approach it, but we have to approach it together. Once again I think that we can work with the community and Health and Social Services, mental health and we have some reinvestment as you...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Is it just me?

**HON. DON MORIN:**

I am having a tough time here to talk because of those around me and I am trying to be...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Thank you. Those Members who have sat here for the last two hours are trying to make sure we are here because of the important item on the table. Now we have a number of Members who have just walked in and started talking on the sidelines. We have stated in our opening remarks that we have a very important item and we stated that Members of this committee, those asking questions should be concise. The Minister's response should be clear. Now we are trying to follow the format, a process that we came up with, until some Members walked in and started talking on the sidelines. Please be respectful of other Members. Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And advise the Members that are here and we do have some reinvestment in 1998-99, and also the federal government. All the messages we are getting are, they are willing to look at reinvesting in health care. Especially when it comes to youth and children in this country. My understanding is, that the program up in the Delta, in Fort McPherson, is geared to family and healing families. So there should be, hopefully, the potential to work with the Gwich'in of Fort McPherson to make that a reality. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Question number four, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the Premier for his commitment. I have a question that comes in line of a commitment that the Premier has made in regard to letters he sent to all municipalities in regard to their priority items for the five-year capital plan and their forecasts. In regard to priority projects that they would like to see prioritized in their particular communities and their particular ridings, I would like to ask the Premier about these letters that were sent to the prioritized items, back to the Premier, and trying to ensure that these items are put into the five-year capital plan and either restructured to ensure that the priority items of those communities are carried out now, rather than waiting for later. So I would like to ask the Premier, what has he done with these letters that he has received from all the  
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municipalities, communities in regard to prioritizing their projects?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All letters that we received from communities on the capital plan in process and the prioritization of the communities capital plans are to the departments that are affected. They go into the capital planning process to make sure that the staff who are developing the capital plans have input from the communities. That is the whole intention of that and that is where they go. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Krutko, question number five.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question relates to the whole process of the Northern Accord in regard to the obligation that this government has not only to the residents of the Northwest Territories, but also to the individual claims organizations that have completed land claim agreements with a section which was left open to ensure that benefit agreements, in regard to aboriginal subsurface benefit agreements on settlement lands will be entrenched into the Northern Accord, also, in regard to the whole idea of royalties which will be transferred from the federal government to the Government of the Northwest Territories and also to the aboriginal groups.

So my question to the Premier is, is that this item was a priority of this government yet it seems as if it has come to a complete standstill, yet I think it is a critical enough item that we have to conclude it. We have a commitment to certain organizations which fall within the land claims agreements and also there is a fiduciary responsibility under those agreements to this government to conclude those negotiations with the federal government and with the aboriginal organizations that do have them. I would like to ask the Premier what is going to be done in relation to those organizations to ensure that those agreements are concluded and also those claims obligations are fulfilled? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. The federal government has a commitment to follow up on their commitments as they have signed off in the claims processes, so as part of those talks they will continue as well as ourselves will continue to consult with the aboriginal organizations to identify their interests regarding devolution. The whole issue of devolution is on the transfer of powers and programs of responsibilities of the federal government. It is a key element in overall completion of the agenda of responsible government and political control of natural resources through the GNWT which must provide for both protection of aboriginal rights and a meaningful role for aboriginal organizations. In that devolution process, Mr. Krutko, I have also written to the Prime Minister on the whole issue of responsible government and political development of the responsible government in the Northwest Territories, and we are presently, through the Minister of RWED, talking to the Minister responsible for Indian Affairs, Jane Stewart, in Ottawa on this whole issue. Aboriginal organizations will have to come to realize, those that do not want to move ahead on this issue, that the pie is only so big, it is not going to get a lot bigger, and we had better look at solving our own problems in the north, making the decisions in the north and getting control of northern resources. We have lived through this last process that we just went through, with the development of a diamond project north of here where some bureaucrat in Ottawa makes the decisions, I think that time should be long gone, and we should work together to move those things to the north. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Question number six, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question deals with economic development and stimulating the local and regional economy of certain areas and certain regions who presently are in a down turn. I would like to ask the Premier in regard to economic development programs and services that presently do not or have not been exploited to its fullest, especially the Mackenzie Delta, where they have a lot of potential especially regarding the renewable resource sector, in regard to commercial fishing, hunting, the trapping industry and also looking at creating home businesses for home entrepreneurs to look at the possibility of developing small businesses around the renewable resource sector. There is that potential. There is also the potential for tourism, but at the present time we do not have the opportunity of a

diamond mine, the oil and gas sector is down, yet our unemployment statistics continue to rise.

I think it is critical for this government to seriously look at finding long-term initiatives such as economic development especially in areas where there is potential in the area like the renewable resource sector, fishing, trapping, hunting, tourism. We have to structure our programs and services to assist, not assist in terms of a grant where you go out and buy a snowmobile or a motor, but develop it so it is a long-term investment to assist entrepreneurs not just to go out, set a net, come home with a bunch of fish, put it in your freezer and sell it to someone, but that you are able to market that industry so that individual knows at the end of the day that there are people out there who will buy his product, that you market the product and you also assist the individual to market his industry to eventually be independent. I think it is critical for this government, now that we no longer have to deal with the large deficit that we did have to deal with two years ago. I think it is now time that we turned the economic wagon that we are in around and start assisting the communities, the people in those communities where we have high unemployment statistics. So I feel it is critical to this government, and as Premier, that an effort be made to ensure people in the communities, people we represent, that we are going to assist the little entrepreneur out there and not just big business. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier, would you like to respond?

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to hear the Member's remarks because his story is no different than many stories around this room. In the many different regions, it is very important that we work with our people in the communities, and we are committed to moving on and doing that. We have been through the process already of balancing our budget, we have done that, now we move ahead. Now we have to work with our people to create opportunity for a better economy in the north. We are going to do that through the  
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Minister of RWED also with the help of our capable staff and as well Members of this Legislative Assembly will also have to get involved in this whole issue and encourage their people to come out and work through community workshops because it is the

community that has to drive it. Our government's job is to assist them, it is the community that has to drive it, and the people in the community come out with ideas, come to the workshops, come to the community economic development workshops where we can develop economic initiatives with the community. Then we will be moving in there with our development corporation as well to assist them in level 2 and 3 communities, and hopefully from this we will generate intercommunity trade and a new economy without renewable resources throughout the north. I know from visiting David's area as well as the Tuktoyaktuk area last week that there is great opportunity up there. There are a lot of things that people have and we have to work with those people to develop them, and we are willing to do that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Krutko, question number seven.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question deals with the whole idea of community empowerment and allowing communities to take on initiatives in regard to the economic development and well-being of the communities. We have allowed communities to take on certain projects, but one thing that I find, especially in my riding, is the lack of resources that are given to those communities to ensure that whoever in the community is going to take on these projects or deliver them on behalf of this government, the resources are not there to help them do an adequate job. In most times it is half-time positions, but the demand on those individuals is high and yet the communities take on the responsibility for programs without realizing the resources that they need in regard to the human resource sector, the salaries and benefits that come along with these positions and also the money to administer a lot of these programs is not attached to these specific programs that are taken on by those communities.

So I think there has to be more effort made to ensure that we do not set up the communities to fail. I believe what has happened in regard to a lot of communities that have seen this thing as a great idea, but after taking them on they realize that the aspirations of people in the communities either cannot be fulfilled because they do not have the adequate resources or the training to fill those positions to ensure that the program of the service they are delivering is sufficed in relation to having resources that go along with

those positions. I think they have to ensure that when we allow community empowerment to take place in the different ridings we do it in such a way that you look at it like any agreement where it is a long-term implementation phase so that it is phased in over five or ten years. You do not just give them a bunch of money for a year or two and say we are going to assist you and make you better, and when they fail they usually fall in regard to my riding and my region. Part of the problems that originate from the Aklavik Indian Band is a lot of these programs that we devolved to that community were devolved to the band and that was one of the areas that they have seen is that the resources to hire these people on a full-time basis, but only receiving a half-time salary put them in a hole. I do not think we want to see that happen to any other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Premier, would you like to respond?

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nobody said that the road would be easy when we set out on community empowerment. I remember it was a battle many years ago for our people to take over garbage and sewer, just the ability to deliver and pick up, deliver water, pick up your own garbage, but people have grown and people are taking up the challenge. Our job as a government is to work with them and assist them. We have to make sure that communities are assessed properly, that the communities have proper training and it is a long range thing. If community empowerment, once the community has it, they should be moving on with it. Hopefully where there are problems we deal with it on a community by community basis and try to help solve those problems and move on. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The final question Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question to the Premier is, there are a lot of times and a lot of cases in this House we ask questions in regard to health and well-being of the residents of the Northwest Territories, problems with our water, problems with our education systems, problems with our

infrastructure and it is awfully hard to continue to take no for an answer, especially in relation to issues that I have raised and especially issues I feel are critical that we consider them in regard to the health of the people we represent. Not in relation to alcohol and drug programs or treatment programs where the medical services that we get in our communities, but also in regard to territorial programs such as the mammogram program I mentioned a couple of days ago, in which that initiative was a \$60,000 item.

I felt that item probably could have been dealt with through petty cash. I thought there was a petty cash fund around that we could probably dig into. But I think as Premier and as leader of the Members of the Cabinet and our leader as the Premier of this House, I believe that you have to take a more active role in using common sense when it comes to items that are sensitive especially to people in our ridings that feel that their issues or items are important enough that they are passed through ourselves through petitions, where they make an effort to put their name on a petition; and where they call concerning issues in regards to health, medical services and especially health care, that we have to do more than just passing the buck in this House and trying to hand it off to health boards and to the responsibility that it is not the federal government's responsibility it is someone else's. I think we have to streamline this government to ensure that all aspects and all items that are discussed in this House are taken seriously.

So I ask you as the Premier and the leader of this government that an effort is made that you, through your leadership, will ensure that all questions and concerns are taken seriously or that you find an avenue to ensure that there are avenues there that will assist not only ourselves as Members because we ask the questions, but the members that we represent, hear an answer to their questions that we ask on their behalf. An answer that basically is not a flat "no" or stating that "oh it is someone else's responsibility", but we have to put a face at the end of each one of our questions and put a face of a person in a community that is suffering from alcoholism, is

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suffering because they were not properly treated through our health care system, through medical reasons; but also put a face on this government to show whether we care in regard to what is being said in this House and how it is being said and that it is dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Many things have changed over the past ten years I have been here, for sure things have changed. I can remember in the past, in my riding, every time somebody's washroom did not work, they phoned me and every time they had a problem, they would phone me as MLA. It has evolved over the years to where they are phoning the Housing Authority because they are making the decisions at the community level. Some people do not understand when they ask you for help to fix their house or whatever that the money has been transferred to the community. The community has the say. That does not mean we are giving up our responsibility, what that means is, we have empowered the community, the community itself is making the decisions.

In listening with great interest and wherever possible, Mr. Krutko, questions asked in this House are taken seriously. As long as people ask questions and show mutual respect, then it is taken seriously. We know that constituents ask you to ask those questions. I have been over there before. I have been there for four years. I know what drives the process. But also, we have to recognize over the period of time that community governments, regional organizations evolved. You raised the issue of the machine that you would like for different regions. I talked to the Minister about it and he says well maybe those regions would prefer to just buy an x-ray machine, they need that more importantly at this time. It is not a money issue. It is an issue of empowerment to the regions. They should know in the regions what their constituents want and what their highest priorities are. It is the same I guess, you could say to some constituents well, why did Joe Blow get a house before me? That is community empowerment. The community made the decision. They felt he was in more need than you.

It is a tough issue because through community empowerment, through delegation of authority, yes, MLAs are going to have less say, but that is evolving government. So, I do not know what else I could say to that. But when you asked the question, David, on those health questions, we have been listening and we take those questions seriously. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. When I made the opening remarks earlier today, I indicated to all Members, at least all Members who were here that we would try to go half way today, but I have indicated to Members we were to complete these four Ministers out of eight. The way we are moving now, we should be able to complete four of the eight Ministers by 9:00 a.m. I would like to say something to the Ordinary Members that the longer you preamble, the longer your question is, you are going to deprive yourself of more potential questions because we are going to conclude tomorrow. Keep that in mind. I would also like to remind the Ministers that when you respond to questions, be clear and direct and concise. I will soon ask Members for direction. How long would you like to go on? Until midnight or morning? The way we are moving now, I may as well seek direction from the Members. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would encourage you to exercise your prerogative as Chairman and have no more than a minute to ask the question to the Minister. I think that will speed the process along. Secondly, I would ask you if you have the authority to potentially dismiss the Pages for the evening. These are school children, and I think we can sit here a little longer than they can. If you have that authority, I would encourage you to allow them to go home.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I am now seeking consent from the Members of the committee that should we let the Pages go now, or should we let them go at 10:00 p.m.?

What is the wish of the committee?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Now.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Madam Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Mr. Chairman, thank you. I think we should give them the option of whether they want to go or not. If they feel they need to go, I think we should let them go. If they want to stay and make a little overtime that would be great.



**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I am getting two signals. One, is at the discretion of the Pages, whether to go or to stay. Another honourable Member indicated that we should let them go now. What is the wish of the committee? Thank you. I am informed by the Clerk, the arrangement has been made with the parents of the Pages that they will stay until 10:45 p.m. The parents were made aware. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to our process from here, I recommend that we continue, if we are finished with the Premier, and we carry on with the next Minister on the list, Mr. Ng.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Steen is next on the list. Thank you, I have been informed that if Members want to eat, there will be some snacks in the Member's Lounge in a half an hour. So, we will carry on until someone makes a motion to report progress and so on, but again I will try and exercise my power as chairperson, but I will get somebody else to chair in a little while. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my questions are based on some degree of my statement, earlier today. My first question is in regard to the priorities of this government. Specifically, I am concerned that this particular Legislative Assembly is spending so much time on political issues which no doubt are important, such as division and development of a new constitution for the west are two items and now we have another item, which is national unity. I am getting concerned that we have so many political issues that we are losing sight of our economical development issues. I wonder if the Premier could perhaps give direction as to how does this government plan to address this economic development issues at the same time or with the same priority as they would political issues? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Premier.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We said two years ago, the most important issue to the Northwest  
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Territories is the bread and butter issues, jobs. In order for us to create that atmosphere, create the proper ability for our private sector to invest and to attract investment; we had to create the right atmosphere and that was balancing our budget. Making the Northwest Territories look like an attractive place to invest. We have also, in doing that accomplished many other things. We were also able to amalgamate the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development that is pretty well through the amalgamation process and ready now to go into the communities and work with the communities like I had just previously told Mr. Krutko, the MLA for Mackenzie Delta. We go out to the community, economic or community development workshops, especially level two and three communities. So, we can work with those communities to develop the renewable resources.

We are also very active in working to ensure that the Northwest Territories benefits from the mineral exploration that is happening, the diamond mines. There is no way that this government will lay down and allow diamonds to fly over and our resources to leave this country without us benefiting.

Like Mr. Todd says, he will tax them and tax them until we do get their attention, but we will get their attention and benefit as northerners from that resource. We do have great development in the Sahtu region, in the Liard area, the potential for not only logging but for oil and gas. I just came back from the Beaufort area, there is great potential up there as well. What we have to do and are doing, is moving ahead on some initiatives to enable us to have the tools ourselves in order to move ahead, and those initiatives are the bill that Mr. Todd is coming forward with pretty soon, An Amendment to the Financial Administration Act. Also, the new partnership with the private sector, where we can hopefully develop a vehicle in partnership with the private sector so we can build more infrastructure, whether it be highways, schools, hospitals or whatever, in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Second question, Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, my second question is on BHP. I had a opportunity, as well as other Members to receive a briefing from BHP on their present employment strategies and job opportunities and business opportunities.

To say the least, I was a bit discouraged to hear that they have a policy in place, whereby the first benefits and the first priority for job creation, opportunities and business opportunities is for people in the immediate area of the diamond mine. Regardless of the socio-economic agreement they have with the government, that particular agreement takes priority over the government's.

That leaves people outside of the particular area with not much hope of getting employed at the diamond mine. I am aware at this point in time that in talking with the people that work, there is nothing but unskilled labour opportunities period. There are no other opportunities. I am wondering what steps this government is prepared to take? I understand that Mr. Morin just said that he is prepared to tax, tax, tax, these guys; but I guess I should ask the question out loud is, what steps is this government prepared to take to encourage that the diamond mine be more cooperative in addressing job opportunities and business opportunities for all northerners, not just those in the Yellowknife area?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. We have been working with BHP and on the valuation side of the equation of this mine. It seems that we may be able to come to some agreements. BHP has done a reasonable job of hiring northerners on the construction end of it. It is a major project, and I would not worry one bit about whether or not they are through community agreements that they are going to hire the Dogrib Nation first, and Treaty 8 together, their peoples first, then it moves out from there. We are able for the first time in history of this government, and the mining industry of the Northwest Territories, to get a socio-economic agreement that also, Hay River, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, Inuvik, Cambridge Bay will be pick up points, Coppermine, for employment at that mine. That will mean the mining will pick up employees at those communities and fly them back. I believe we are talking about 800 people in total. I believe there is enough work out there to employ

people who want to work, that are available for work, from all those regions including the Beaufort. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Third question, Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Madam Chair, I am aware that BHP has pick ups in Inuvik, but what my question is, how do we encourage them to hire more than just unskilled labour? Surely they must have people in the territories. I know there are people in my region who are willing and have applied and have heard no response from BHP. They are skilled labourers.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Arctic College students, the Department of Education, is working with BHP to develop training initiatives so that our people can be employed. There is no way, if you have people available and trained in the Northwest Territories go to work. Those are the people that should be hired from those communities. I do not have any specific cases that I can refer to.

The Department of Education is going to have a representative at the mine, on a training committee and possibly we have talked to the Minister of Education and looked at making sure that we work in partnership with BHP to develop training initiatives and strategies on how to make sure northerners are hired. So far, that work, I understand, from the Minister, is going quite well.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, for that concise and brief answer, Mr. Morin. Mr. Steen, your fourth question.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I understand from the Premier that this government is prepared to enter into a large scale partnership with private enterprise for construction for infrastructure for facilities in all regions on an equal basis including construction of schools, hospitals, roads, et cetera. Page 72

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. We are working right now on public/private partnership policy for the government. We are looking at what they have done in other jurisdictions so that we can include it, so that everyone knows that dollars are scarce in 1997, and they may be more scarce further. Hopefully by November 15, 1997, we will have that policy done so we can move ahead and create opportunities for northerners. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. I just wish to clarify that I was not being factious before, since a Member requested that we keep the questions down to one minute. I was timing them and actually your previous answer was over two minutes. If we can keep the Members' questions to around a minute and the Ministers' responses to about two, I think we will make good progress. Mr. Steen, your fifth question.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair, point of order. I did not agree to the suggestion by the Member that we should get down to one minute because it would have been unfair that some Members had spoken for ten minutes during their preempt and now you are suggesting that I am going to be at one minute. I disagree with that.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. The remark by the other Member was just a suggestion to facilitate that all Members' participation in this questioning of this particular Minister, just looking at the sheet, I am not intending of gyping you of any of your time, but there are quite a number of Members who have not asked questions yet. Mr. Steen, your fifth question.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I will keep my questions short. Madam Chair, if the Premier agrees that no future contracts applicable to Nunavut will be entered into by this government without the express written consent of the Interim Commissioner, including contracts such as the Keewatin Fuel Delivery Pipeline?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. At this time the government is working on protocol agreements with the Interim Commissioner on the whole contract initiative and we are close to finalizing that. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Your sixth question, Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I am going to have to wait until they get to the Hansard for that response. My next question is in regard to Interim Regional Government Funding. I understand, Madam Chair, there has been a request for the Interim Regional Government Funding for Inuvik, and I am wondering what the Premier's position is on this particular request?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I am not aware of any Interim Regional Government Funding request out of Inuvik. We do not have any money in our budget for regional governments or interim regional governments.

At the present time, through aboriginal Affairs, I know that the federal government is negotiating with Inuvialuit/Beaufort region on regional government issues. We are also dealing with the federal government with an MOU to make sure that the federal government is responsible for any transitional incremental costs to deal with self-government. We have not finished those negotiations as of yet, but we will not move ahead on self-government until we get a commitment from the federal government that they are going to pay. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Your seventh question, Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, before I ask my seventh question, I would like to say that for the past two years I have felt that the Premier has been quite cooperative in getting responses from the House, as far as I am concerned. They are short and to the point, and I do not have a problem with him answering my questions. Therefore, I wish to express my appreciation. I would like to ask him, I noticed in the Hansard from two years ago when I put this question to him, I would like to ask him if he is still committed to visiting Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk and Holman if time permits? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to try this spring again, when the weather is a little better. Hopefully we will go straight there and I could donate to Sachs Harbour economy. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. That is all for Mr. Steen. Next I have Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a few short questions for the Premier. The first one is, is the Department of Personnel for all intensive purposes disbanded? Does the Premier know how many employees were in the department previously and now that responsibility has gone out to each department? Has the number of PYs dealing with personnel matters, has it increased since the department was disbanded? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I do not know the answer to that question, but I could get the information, for the Member. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I would appreciate receiving that information and it would give me some indication as to whether the government is being more efficient as far as the number of employees that were working in it. I would refer, Madam Chair, to Hansard of March 5, 1997, in which the Premier response to a question on the socio-economic impact benefits agreement. The Premier had made

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the comment and had offered encouragement to people in the Northwest Territories. I very much supported the statement and was hoping to hear more of a similar statements from the Premier where he was referring to the people of the Northwest Territories that they had a responsibility to participate in the workforce. If I can quote what the Minister said, "the people themselves, the young people of the Northwest Territories, have a responsibility that you better be on the plane when your time is to go to work. You better be there every time that you are supposed to be there". What I was wanting to do, Madam Chair, is to encourage the Premier to make more statements like that and to encourage the people of the Northwest Territories that they have to present themselves to employers and to let employers know that, yes in fact, I am interested in working for you, and I am interested in having a job every day. That was more of an encouragement to the Premier to make more of those statements. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry, Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Point taken, I will be doing that and I do that when I speak at communities or to young people. I tell people that they have a responsibility, the government has a responsibility and mining companies and employers have a responsibility. But ultimately nobody is going to come knocking on your door to put you to work. You have to come out and make yourself available to work.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. The government has produced a new magazine, if you will, for government

employees, and it is called the Bear Facts. This is, I suggest, a fancy magazine. It is good and well done. I think a lot of people put a lot of work into it. I would realize that the Premier probably would not know offhand how much a document like that costs on a regular basis. What I would ask him is was there any consideration given to putting it on the Internet rather than having it published for employees. Thank you Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I would have to check that, but I think there is stuff on the Internet as well, a new web page. We are going to launch that fairly soon. I do know that, I think, it consists of eleven issues a year. It is \$50,000.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I am impressed that the Minister would have that figure at hand. Just a comment, the Minister responded to this House when asked if he would consider printing the telephone directory, and the Premier had commented that the information was available on the Internet so I would just suggest it would be another way to publish this document to make it available for people to download it as necessary. Thank you, Madam Chair. Those are all my comments and questions.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry, would the Premier like to respond.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair, we also redid the telephone directory for the Government of the Northwest Territories. We are also looking at Mr. Erasmus' concern about the central government switchboard. I will be talking more with Mr. Arlooktoo, Minister of Department of Public Works and Services as well as Mr. Kakfwi, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development because of the whole tourism end of it. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Madam Chair, I would like to report progress.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you there is a motion to report progress on the floor. The motion is in order. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? Thank you, the motion is defeated. So are there any further questions by Members of the Premier? Any further questions. If not, is the committee agreed that our next Minister on the list is the Honourable Mr. Ng. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to thank the Members for their comments and it has been a pleasure. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Next we have Mr. Ng. Before we proceed with Mr. Ng, I would like to use my prerogative as chair to make an observation that in the preamble read by Mr. Ningark with respect to purpose of this mid-term review, I would just like to draw the members attention to a few things. The purpose of the whole exercise here today and this evening is to focus on the successes in terms of achieving the goals that we had set and identifying those areas where we may have fallen short or not succeeded to the extent that we could have.

This is a mid-term review. It is getting to be a bit of a question and answer marathon. It seems like an extended question period. So to just remind Members try and keep your comments and questions if you can. I am not trying to be difficult here, but try and keep them on the bigger picture of the government. So, Mr. Ng? Do we have questions for Minister Ng. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. My first question of the honourable Minister would be with regard to the direction of and role of this government in respect to providing health services. The Minister over the past week has commented and indicated that a lot of his approach and that of the government is to hand over responsibility to the regional health boards. I have a

very blunt question for the Minister. How does he think the problem that is associated with the issue of early detection of breast cancer can be handled consistently and fairly throughout the Northwest Territories through this program.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ng

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, basically by developing the programs in conjunction with our partners, the Boards that deliver the programs. To have some consistency in how we outline the program and how we work it through the system and integrate. If it is not available at a local  
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level, if it is not available at a regional level, to make it available at a territorial level, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I see a great deal of difficulty in the Minister's approach. I use this as an illustration because there maybe other programs like this where this government is handing over responsibility for health care to a regional board, and seems to be handing over total responsibility and total concern. And I do not think that is the way for us to go here in the Northwest Territories. I think it is important that we take some responsibility where there are areas that cross boundaries. That we continue to be responsible. For example, in the provinces while they have moved to regional boards and in the case of New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, they are now reassessing the value of that program.

Will the Minister look at the breast cancer program, I am going to ask him one more time, will he look at taking responsibility directly as this government for early detection, screening of breast cancer as a program of this government.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I would take the responsibility to ensure the coordination of this type of a program takes place, as long as the boards think it is a priority within their service areas as well, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I will revert to others. I understand I can come back with my remaining questions.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you,. Further questions, Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. My question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I indicated that according to the information I received that the Keewatin is supposed to be staffed with approximately 25 Social Services staff people ranging from Class 1 to Class 5 I believe. The information I received with that is that at this point of time there are only 7. A recent recruitment program is only indicating that possibly only 2 more will be added to these numbers. Can the Minister confirm this and explain if that is the case, why?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I have not heard if that is the case. I am not doubting what the Member is saying. I think I would have to get it checked out and see if that was the case and see what we could do to try and alleviate that situation if it were true. Thank you,.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. My information as I indicated states that this is the case. Would the Minister agree that with these numbers I received in the last 2 days, the recruitment program that has

been under way has only resulted in 2 new additional staff people, and that there is also a number of staff people that are presently hired that really do not have the proper certification or the certification that is in the Class 4, Class 3? Would the Minister agree that is this is the case, that this would be considered a fairly serious situation for the Keewatin people?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess it would depend a lot on the extent of the vacancies if that amount of vacancies were to be in the Keewatin, then certainly it would be an item of concern. We would have to take the appropriate action. I would like to say that historically Health and Social Services, Social Workers in the professions have been high demand and a high turnover area because of the demands of the job, not just in the north but throughout the country. It is no different than some of our health care professionals. All the front-line workers that are under these demands and pressures overgo significant turnovers at different stages at different communities. But like I said, if it is the case, then we will see what we can do to move some resources possibly or if it is required, from other regions or from the department to beef up or shore up the needs until we can assist the boards in filling the vacancies. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, would the Minister try to shed some light on this very issue in relationship not only to the social services workers, but also to the health professionals, local nurses and so on? Historically it seems that the Keewatin has had a problem in recruiting and maintaining these type of staff. We know it is a problem in the north for the most part, but we seem to be for the most part hard hit on an ongoing basis. Can the Minister indicate why this may be happening in particular in the Keewatin area where these services are in great demand?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, it is not just the Keewatin that is in that situation. As I indicated for the front-line staff, the front-line health care workers, social workers and particularly those are high turnover areas and historically high vacancy areas throughout the Northwest Territories just based on the demands placed on individuals working in our communities. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Further questions. Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. The Minister is aware of the present concern in the Keewatin regarding health care. It has been debated and talked about in this House over the last number of weeks and in some cases, months. There was a request for a public inquiry into the concerns and the services for health related programs in the Keewatin. This request for a public inquiry was turned down. As a result, the Minister in all due respect did at least go to the point where he requested an internal review by members of his own department. Madam Chair, some of the areas of the

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recommendations indicated that the Minister would immediately be given the status as to the number of doctors in the Keewatin that are available now. I believe this is approximately three weeks ago that this report came out. Can the Minister advise the Members as to what is the status today? How many doctors are in the Keewatin at this date?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, it is my understanding that we have one resident full-time physician right now. They still have access through telephone consultations with the physicians in Churchill and in Winnipeg. There are plans under way for a full-time recruitment. They have secured contracts for three full-time physicians, starting at different times. It is my understanding there is one on staff now. There is one starting in November and another one committed for start in March of 1998. They also have locums available and signed for different various terms for coverage. It is summarizing

the information that I have recently received from the Keewatin Health Board. In November they will have two MDs the entire month and a third for half the month. In December they will have four physicians available for the entire month and a fifth for half of the month. In January they will have four physicians for the entire month. That is a three month future needs assessment they have outlined to me. A physician supply they have outlined to me. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Madam Chair, I asked the question of the Minister in the last two weeks regarding the fact that it was my understanding and the information that was provided to me that there is a long waiting list of patient referrals to specialists and these referrals have to be dealt with by a medical doctor. Up to this point I have not received a confirmation on this from the Minister. Could he tell me whether or not this is the case and how it is going to be dealt with?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. It was the case in that they have advised me that there was a backlog because there were some transitional difficulties in early October as a result of the termination of the northern medical unit contract that was taking place at that time. Since then, like I indicated, they have made some arrangements to continue to have accessibility at least on a telephone consultative basis with the physicians in Churchill and the backlogs at the various health centres will start to diminish in November when they have the other complements of physicians that come on stream and be able to send out some of those physicians to the communities to deal with those backlogs. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, given the question that I just asked and the answer that the

Minister provided, is he still convinced that the people of the Keewatin are not at risk regarding their health services in the Kivallivik? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I have said before and I will continue to say that, no I do not believe they are at risk in respect to the issue of accessibility to physician services. Obviously, we cannot guarantee that the health status of all individuals or any individuals for that matter, because you do not know what the circumstances are surrounding treatment and surrounding conditions that require individuals to receive treatment. As far as accessibility to physicians and specialists, the plans are there and are being finalized for that type of coverage. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we have recently been provided with information that show that the cost of hiring these doctors for the Keewatin, whatever arrangements are being made as the Minister has indicated. It is going to be much higher than what the original costs that were laid out and that were paid to other doctors in the past. I asked the Minister last week a question regarding the cost benefit analysis that was asked for regarding the Baffin situation and the proposed changes and moves in their medical services. The Minister indicated that it was not necessary to have this cost benefit analysis done in the Keewatin. Given the fact that information has come forward that these costs are somewhat higher, does he still think it is not necessary to conduct the cost benefit analysis to see whether or not the changes that are proposed, if they are cost effective?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. No, I do not believe so because it has not been confirmed to me that there



are extraordinary costs of recruitment as a result of some of the information I have received to date.  
Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Final question, Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I can assure the Minister from the reports that I see from my community and also other Keewatin communities that there is a great deal of concern and dissatisfaction with the system we have in place to date. Back to my question regarding the cost benefit analysis, it is my understanding that as a result of not having these doctors in the communities, large numbers of patients and residents have to be flown elsewhere to see doctors. That in itself would tell me that the cost factor has increased. As a result, I would ask the Minister again if he would conduct a cost benefit analysis of the proposed changes for the Keewatin regarding their delivery of health services. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Ng.  
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**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Not at this time. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. I have on the list Mr. Roland, Mr. Henry, Mr. Picco. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. My question to the Minister would be in the area of standards. Who sets the standards for the Northwest Territories?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we do as a ministry. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Who then implements these standards?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe that we would as a department as well. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Is it the department that the would implement these standards or health boards?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Madam Chair, I guess the issue would be, if I think I know where the Member is coming from, the health boards as the deliverers would be asked to implement the standards that we have set, and of course we would be responsible for monitoring and evaluating whether or not the standards that were set have been met. I think that is basically where we are heading as far as the responsibilities and the role and the memorandums of understanding between the department and health and social services boards in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. What authority has been given to the boards to make changes to their operations?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Madam Chair, they have quite a bit of flexibility in designing some of the programs and setting priorities within their own service areas and what they think are the more appropriate programs to be putting more of the emphasis on and which ones, of course, they would not place such an emphasis on if it is deemed to be as a high of a priority in their service area. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. My question will go back to the standards. What are the results of not meeting the standards?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Right now it is in a state of flux in that we have an MOU that we have been working on through the health care association, but the intent, obviously Madam Chair, depending on what standards we are dealing with because as we all know, some pretty extensive programs that we are asking the boards to carry out. Obviously, we would want to make sure if things were going out of line, that we would try to make corrections and assist the boards to do that by pointing out where there may be some variances in what we would expect and work with them to try to work through that. In a worse case scenario, if you have incompetency or just boards that are unwilling to conform to standards, of course we would have to take appropriate action in whatever may be necessary to ensure that the safety and the service of the public is not at risk. That could mean as much as dissolving boards or putting in public administrators or firing CEOs and any type of option to make sure that people in the Northwest Territories are not put at risk as a result of boards not conforming or unwilling to conform to standards. Again, depending on the nature of what the variance may be. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. With the standards that are in place, and saying that health boards have the ability and authority to make changes in areas they feel that are priorities. Health boards that know decided to make changes, if there are areas that changes result in certain standards not being met, then is that a responsibility of the department on a territorial wide basis?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Once we would set standards, the basic standards that would have to amend, yes, it would be our responsibility to ensure that standard was available throughout the Northwest Territories and be able to be provided by all health and social services boards. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Is there a set of standards that would cover the Northwest Territories from the health and social services point of view, or do we have numerous different standards set either by federal government or territorial government or previous agreements? Do we have one that would cover the whole of the Northwest Territories in the health and social services area?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. There is obviously again depending on the complexity of the program. There are different standards for different programs and given

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that there has been variations of different programs and the way they are delivered throughout the Northwest Territories, one of the things we are trying to do is to standardize so it is uniform across the territories in order to provide that consistency. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Final question, Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Is the Minister saying that right now in the Northwest Territories we do not have a set of standards that could be followed throughout the Northwest Territories that can be measured to say if health boards in different areas are meeting these standards or not? They are in flux all over and each board can set its own standards?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, again, depending on what programs we are speaking of, generally I can say that there are standards and that boards are at various levels in respect to those standards and that again, it is hard to get into a comparison unless we are reviewing a certain program and we can get the information on where each board is with those programs and what our standards relative to where those boards are. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Next on the list I have Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Following up on Mr. Roland's question. This has been the topic of much debate in the House in the last few weeks, the whole mammography program. Can the Minister explain to me, does the department have a standard as to mammography program for the Northwest Territories at the department level?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, that is, as I have indicated, we have done quite a bit of work recently on development of guidelines for implementing breast cancer screening programs at the board level and that is an ongoing development

as we receive feedback from boards on where to proceed from there, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Does the department have any dollar amounts on what the Government of the Northwest Territories are spending presently in providing mammography services to residents of the Northwest Territories? I am talking about, I believe Yellowknife is the only location they may be performed in. So, are there lots of referrals to Yellowknife or southern locations and does the Minister have a handle on how many dollars the departments or boards would be spending on that service presently? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I do not have that information here. I could certainly find that information out because boards of course do spend for mammography when their patients travel to areas if there are individuals that require treatment or screening, then it depends of course, where the equipment is, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Does the Minister know if the female population of the Northwest Territories, especially in smaller communities, are aware of their obligations or does the department provide any literature? You know, preventative medicine? We have heard quite a bit about it. Do residents in the smaller communities know it is a good idea and a very proactive approach to the whole area of breast cancer that these examinations should be done? Do the departments put out that information making residents of the Northwest Territories aware of that?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I understand literature is translated into aboriginal languages. I do not know exactly how many. I could certainly find out what is available at health centres. I know there are annual breast self-examinations clinics taking place at the health centres throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. The Minister responded to questions Mr. Roland had earlier and he had talked about doctors performing locums and also that there were telephone consultations. I find that a little strange that it may be standard practice in some communities. I could see consulting with a lawyer on the phone, but I have a little bit more concern consulting with someone who was treating me for health concerns. A recommended number of doctors that the department would suggest boards should have? Does he have a handle on the numbers of doctors that the Northwest Territories are short of at this time?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I do not have that information with me. I do recall reviewing the physicians' manpower requirements study that was undertaken by the Northwest Territories Medical Association. I believe that was approximately about a year ago, and I think at that time it was somewhere from my recollection, about 20 physicians or something like that, 15-20 positions through the Northwest Territories.

I just wanted to clarify the issue of telephone consultations. We are not speaking about the client or the patient speaking with the physician over the phone. We are talking about the nurse, the practitioner that would be providing primary care for the client consulting with the physician on whether or not what treatment that individual may need and whether or not they would need to be sent out or if it could wait until the next

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physician visits and that type of thing. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to thank the Minister for his clarification there. When reading the Med-Emerg report I recall comments made that Kugluktuk for example was without a physician for, if I recall it was not months, it was years. Could the Minister tell me if the community of Kugluktuk warrants a doctor and if indeed, there is a doctor in that community?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I believe he may be referring to Cambridge Bay where it was the regional position for the Kitikmeot. There was one position that historically had been there. The Member is correct. Over the past, I believe three years now, it has been vacant in respect of a resident position. They have been filling the vacancies through contracts with the clinics here in Yellowknife. There is definitely a need for one and possibly two or three to service the Kitikmeot in respect of positions. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Madam Chair, thank you. Changing the topic slightly. The Minister is probably aware that the federal government in the area of non-insured health benefits for aboriginal people have recently capped some of the funds they allocate to that program. Could the Minister advise me as to what the Government of the Northwest Territories' responsibility is in this area where the federal government have capped some of the non-insured health benefits? Particularly the dental field, what obligations this government has? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we have no obligation in respect to the non-insured health benefits program. Right now we contract with medical services branch of Health and Welfare Canada to provide the service. As you know in other jurisdictions, the federal government, Health and Welfare Canada still provides the health services for aboriginal people on reserves. Up here of course, we do not have any reserves and hence the arrangement with our government in respect to delivery of the non-insured health benefits program on their behalf. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. My final question. The Minister is probably also aware that the Alberta Dental Association were quite frustrated with the actions taken by the federal government as they are the bearer of bad news to the patient, and they talk about it diminishes the trust necessary for effective communication. Has the department been asked to support advances to the federal government to revisit this area of capping some of the programs for aboriginal people? Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. We have actively to my knowledge, pursued it, I think. A lot of the aboriginal organizations have recognized the issue of capping and have had discussions with federal officials on it. I do not know exactly what the extent of those negotiations or discussions have been to date, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you. There has been just recently a dental clinic set up in the Keewatin, and I believe this program for capping came in after that program had been set up. I would ask the Minister because of that situation of the cost involved of setting up a new operation if he would take a personal interest or a department interest in this and do what he can to encourage the federal government to not be capping these programs especially at a time when new businesses are set up and then a capping comes in place? Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I would certainly have no problem with that. We right now as provincial and territorial jurisdictions -- I know through my work on the Ministerial Council on Social Renewal with the Premiers have assigned to us -- are very concerned about some of the aboriginal off-loading, if you will, of the federal government, of what we feel are their fiduciary responsibilities to aboriginal people, peoples in respect to the health care services and we are actively continuing to pursue that with the federal Minister. It is an issue that has been there for quite a number of years and I think, especially recently, within the last couple of years as the profile has continued to raise particularly in some of the southern jurisdictions because of the fact that a lot of their health and social services resources are being dramatically impacted as a result of aboriginal people moving off of reserves and into the cities, into the more urban areas and creating huge fiscal demands on their programs in those southern jurisdictions as well, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. On the list I now have Mr. Krutko, Mr. Picco and Mr. Enuaraq. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Madam Chair, at this time I would like to report progress that we continue with this Minister tomorrow when we continue with committee of the whole.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Your motion is in order. It is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is defeated.

So, we will proceed. Next on the list I have Mr. Picco. Mr. Krutko, you have the floor. Please proceed.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I have been looking forward to this for a couple of years now. Madam Chair, my question to the Minister especially in regard to the whole area  
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of health and social services, in regard to decisions that have been made by this government and certain cuts have been made by this government especially in the area of health, in regard to the mental health of individuals and also the whole medical services that we deliver to our constituents and especially in regard to the Minister, a comment I made in the House where an individual was taken to the hospital to Inuvik by taxi who was suffering from a heart attack. I would like to ask the Minister if this practice is the way we deliver health care to the residents of the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, it is not the preferred way of treating any individual in respect to delivery of health care services. It is an unfortunate situation, but we are dealing with 65,000 residents at various stages receiving health care. At some point in the system you have breakdowns. You run into difficulties that are unexpected. There are unfortunate situations and you hope certainly that they will not have a serious impact on that individual, but you cannot always guarantee that unfortunately and things do happen when you are dealing with individuals that require treatment, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, in regard to the whole area of Tl'oondih Healing Society and a motion I passed in this House in regard to the closure of that program and Delta House, I would like to ask the Minister a question in regard to the whole area of alcohol and drug programs where those programs are

presently being delivered. The question of certification. It has been an issue that has been raised in relation to that program being delivered. I would like to ask the Minister in regard to the programs that presently exist, are they certified and who does the certification for those other programs that presently exist?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, it depends on the nature of the programs whether or not it is us or it is some national accreditation. Then it would be by the federal government Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Madam Chair, just clarification on his response, I asked who does the accreditation. He did not answer that portion of the question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Madam Chair, I do not know exactly who it would be, but the officials within whichever department it would be that has that responsibility, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. It seems like the Minister either does not know or that he assumes someone is certifying these alcohol and drug facilities that currently exist. Yet one of the criteria he put on the Tl'oondih Healing Society was that it has to be credible. Yet the present standards that are in place, we are using southern facilities to deliver alcohol and drug programs to the residents of the Northwest Territories which are not credible in regards to being certified. So which is it?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I advised the Member I do not know who the individual is. I can certainly find that out or whether it is a team, but I can say that there are treatment facility standards that we have and the Ti'oondih Healing Camp is well aware of those standards because they have tried to meet them. I do not know what the status is of their efforts to be certified as an NWT treatment centre, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I am not too sure how to put these questions because it seems like he is either avoiding answering my questions or basically does not have an idea what this area falls under. Madam Chair, in regards to a question I asked about a child advocacy group in regards to the statistics that I mentioned to the Premier and also that was directed to the Minister about the numbers of children who have been either sexually abused or physically abused, it is alarming, it is high and that is just a small portion of the numbers that we know of. Yet there are a lot of concerns out there about the well-being of children that this government does not have an adequate department to serve the issues that relate to children and also concerns that affect them especially in statistics that we see are alarming. The number of cases that are presently in front of us in regard to court, the number of actions that are presently taking place, the question of child pornography, the sexual abuse that has happened in the hostel systems in the north, I would like to ask the Minister, why are we not fulfilling that obligation to children yet we say that they are a priority of this government? Why not?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I would beg to differ with the honourable Member in that we are providing adequate programs in child protection measures. It is unfortunate that we have such a high

incidence of child abuse. It is something that in the long term that prevention, we have to do by making communities well overall in providing them with economic opportunities, healing types of programs that are community based or community initiated are all part of the overall longer term process of trying to deal with this issue of child abuse, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

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**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. My next question deals with the whole idea of motions that are passed in committee of the whole, petitions tabled in this House by a number of residents, in the hundreds, yet the concerns in relation to this department in relation to those issues in regard to the whole area of alcohol and drug programs, closure of alcohol and drug treatment programs and the whole area and aspect of community well-being. When the community supports a particular initiative to encourage the healing process in communities and also the treatment effects in communities in regard to the whole area of physical abuse, sexual abuse, mental abuse, you name it, communities have those areas that they have to deal with in order to be well. Yet it seems like it is an ongoing process of battling the bureaucracy to ensure that those activities are either carried out or delivered in those communities sufficiently. It is either you do not have enough resources to carry those out or basically it is not a priority for that particular government. So I would like to ask the Minister what has he done in relation to these petitions, motions tabled in this House and also questions asked by Members in this House? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we have tried to support community empowerment by devolving the responsibilities and the funding to the regional and community level to have them set their own priorities as I have said in the past in respect to what they think would be the best and most suitable programs to operate in their areas and of course with that, what communities and what facilities in that area

they would support. I do want to clarify we have not withdrawn accessibility to alcohol and drug treatment programs as the Member may have alluded to. We still provide alcohol and drug treatment, residential in-house treatment to residents that require that, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. My other question in regard to the Minister is the health of the residents of Mackenzie Delta in relation to the water concern in Fort McPherson which I raised in this House and debated for a number of weeks. In regard to the whole question of the health of our residents and especially when you find chemicals that are associated with cancer in the water supply of our residents in which they have to drink because they have no other option, and yet this government either does not want to deal with it or he hands it off to another department either Public Works or MACA. Yet raising it as a concern of health it seemed like your department was either trying to avoid dealing with this matter or totally washing your hands of the whole question of the cancer causing chemicals that were in the water system when it was analyzed in Fort McPherson. I would like to ask the Minister why was that?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, those are pretty serious allegations. If it were true that it was analyzed or evaluated that there were cancer causing agents or chemicals in contamination of the water supply then we would be obligated, or any regulatory or water agency would be obligated to report that and to have that corrected as soon as possible, Madam Chair. I cannot speak on the specifics that the honourable Member is mentioning, I do not have those results that he refers to. If he has them or if the community has them, certainly if I were aware of them or any Cabinet Member that may be responsible or public health official; then we would act on that immediately, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Final question, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. In regard to the whole idea of allegations or what not being made, the studies that I am talking about were done by the Department of Public Works and there is a public document that clearly states in the report that there were cancer causing components in certain segments of the water that were tested. So for the Minister to say that he did not do anything about it regarding taking his job seriously and with my concerns as the Member for Mackenzie Delta, it seems like everything that has happened in relation to Mackenzie Delta was either slashed, cut or burned by this particular Minister and his department from the Department of Justice to the closure of the Knute Lang Camp which was identified by the previous Minister for Justice in regard to a facility in behalf of the Department of Justice, the closure of the Tl'oondih Healing Program, Delta House and also the removal of certain individuals in regard to the health care area especially in the area of mental health. I would like to ask exactly why is it that all these areas that were originally running were in place, were on the books before this Minister took this portfolio and all of a sudden they all got slashed. This boggles my mind and I would like to know why?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, unfortunately as we know all government underwent changes as a result of fiscal restraints that took place. Some things that may have been planned could not be carried out because of a difficult fiscal environment when we took office. Some programs could not continue to be funded for whatever reasons and unfortunately, as I indicated in my opening comments we have had to make decisions as a government and as a minister. Unfortunately not all those decisions are popular. We know that they have impacted individuals and organizations. Ideally if we did not have to do that, we would not, but unfortunately we have had to make those decisions, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you Mr. Ng. Next I have on the list Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**



Thank you, Madam Chair. Good evening it has been a long day. I would like to begin by thanking the Minister and his staff, anytime I have had requests to the Minister on various justice or health issues he has always been forthcoming and responsive when the House is not sitting and I thank him for that.

My first question concerns the Baffin Correctional Centre. There have been a couple of breakouts from the Baffin Correctional Centre over the last year. Recently there were three more inmates who broke out of the Baffin Correctional

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Centre. Last spring myself and the Minister had an opportunity to tour the centre and were quite disturbed to find out about marijuana and hash being dropped through windows from the ground and up into the correctional centre that inmates were able to get and other concerns. I wonder, has the Minister's department done anything to prevent these outbreaks and other episodes other than the few dollars we put into the capital budget for upgrades at that facility? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we have done extensive renovations within the Baffin Correctional Centre. I do not have all the details of what changes have taken place or are in the process of taking place. It is to deal primarily with the break outs and trying to improve the security of that facility. But as you know, anytime people are incarcerated and there are opportunities for them to be unlawfully at large, for various reasons it may not necessarily be while they are within the facility, they may be outside on a work release or temporary release and not return when they are supposed to as well and be unlawfully at large as well in those circumstances, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I would accept that the Minister does not have the full detail, but I would take that at face value that indeed the work has

progressed. I have seen workers over there, and that indeed the work will hopefully prevent more inmates from escaping as it were.

My second question Madam Chair, has the Minister settled the disagreement about the appointment of the Supreme Court judge from Nunavut? It was a question I asked about a year ago that there was a vacancy on the judgeship chair, and tried to get a Supreme Court judge posted to Nunavut. I wonder is the Minister could updated us on that situation.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair, and a very timely question I may add in that I just recently had some correspondence on that. The federal minister has committed to filling that position of a Supreme Court judge based in Nunavut. They are in the process of going through their recommendation process through their advisory committee that makes a recommendation to the federal minister. Our government has made the commitment to provide some of the administrative support necessary which allows the federal minister to go ahead and start the process of naming a potential candidate for that position, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I am very pleased to hear that. After asking so many questions in this House over the past two years, I believe one member stated about 195. But at my count I think I was at 1,057. Finally I have a good answer.

I would like to follow up on another question, a new question. The Department and the Minister have come in for much criticism over the past few months. Has the Minister reviewed the operations of the Department of Health in light of this information and what corrective action, if any, has the Minister taken. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

I do not know what the member is referring to Madam Chair. Maybe if he could elaborate. I do not want criticism of the Department of Health. It is a well run department. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you. Mr. Picco, I have to warn you that when you ask for this clarification, it is going to cost you a question. We do not want you to get upset again, Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

The department and the Minister has come in to much criticism for calls of resignation from different Inuit organizations with the situation regarding the Med-Emerg Report that came under attack from the NWT Medical Association. I could go on and on and on and refresh the Minister's memory if he would like to do that. I think now he has an idea of what I am speaking about.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I guess, you know like I have indicated earlier that when you are making tough decisions or trying to support boards you have to make tough decisions and try to improve the quality of service in their area. Unfortunately with change comes controversy sometimes, and you have to work your way through that. As long as you know you are making the right decision and supporting the right cause, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Fourth question, Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you. Madam Chair. I have several questions, so I will just pick one here. Will the Minister review the decision to basically abandon the alternative referral camps? The alternative referral camps were outpost camps that were located, one in Pond Inlet and I think one near Iqaluit. After quite a bit of discussion with the Minister last year or about a year and a half ago, the Minister went to the per diem rate. That did not afford the camps to operate efficiently and thus in my riding,

they closed the camp. Those camps, the alternate referral camps were very successful. The Minister's department even said that.

I wonder right now if the Minister could go back and look at that decision and review it to see if indeed we could hopefully get those alternate referral camps as part of community justice - they worked so well and were successful to have them review that to see if we can indeed try and get those camps back up and running?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.  
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**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we managed to expand a number of wilderness camps through some of our assistance from a capital contribution side and from continued and accelerated reinvestment in the per diem side of wilderness camps. I think it is safe to say that the larger majority of the ones that have been established continue to operate. I do not think it would be fair to change that system now and go back to having a core funding agreement with wilderness camp operators, particularly when you cannot judge what the capacity and what the client level is going to be at those camps, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

I am disappointed with that answer, Madam Chair, and I will follow up with further questioning in the House. I will carry on with a new question. We have heard quite a bit of discussion over the last few weeks. And I should say that in 1996, as you know in the Hansard, I had asked questions concerning breast cancer. I would like to follow up with that question tonight. Will the Minister commit to addressing the need for a coordinated breast cancer screening and awareness program with the proper equipment in place from his department? I know in previous questions, the Minister has said it is a board concern and the board has to decide. But if we have an outbreak for example of whooping cough, does the Minister allow the board to decide if they are going to inoculate people or would he make a directive through his Medical Health Officer? So I think it is a fair

question. So I am just asking if the Minister would commit to addressing the need for a coordinated breast cancer screening and awareness program with the proper equipment and hopefully review that from the departmental end. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair, Madam Chair, I indicated in a response to Mr. Ootes that I would take on the responsibility to try and coordinate the establishment of a breast cancer screening program provided that the boards felt that within their areas it was a priority as well. In order to coordinate a territorial initiative in this event, I cannot make any commitments in respect to the equipment of the Mammography machine end of things now, primarily as a result of whether there is a lot of other capital equipment priorities that the boards have pointed out. By the same token, they have also pointed out avenues of obtaining the mammography machines through other sources of funding. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Picco, your sixth question please.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Mr. Ng for confirming and committing to do that. Will the Minister commit to more than a cursory review of health matters with the boards and ongoing departmental staff to monitor the situation that has developed over the past few months in various regions of the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I have committed to that already. I believe in response to questions from other members and recognize the fact the department was probably not as involved in some of the proposed changes, particularly the Baffin and Keewatin health boards, as we should have been. We recognize that. What we have to do we said, is set up a monitoring and evaluation unit specifically for

boards to ensure that their operations are consistent in meeting the needs of their residents. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Have you had any contact, Mr. Minister, with the federal government recently on the replacement of the Inuvik and Baffin hospitals? I wonder if you could update us on those negotiations?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Madam Chair, I personally have had no contact or discussions on that issue. Our officials within the Department of Health and Social Services and medical services branch or Health and Welfare Canada have had discussions I believe. From my last briefing on that matter, they are close to having a memorandum of agreement finalized in respect to some of the percentages for the replacement or for the capital investment in those two projects, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Your eighth and final question, Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. That is indeed good news, and I hope that Minister will commit to tabling that information with the respective members. My final question Madam Chair. Has the Minister been contacted or informed of an RCMP investigation concerning a member with regard to recent media reports about an ongoing investigation with this government? Has the Minister been contacted or informed of an RCMP investigation? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. No I have not, and even if I had, it would not be appropriate to discuss it. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Next on my list, I have Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, my first question to the Minister is in regard to a question I asked a couple of years ago, I believe. Madam Chair, I asked the question of the Minister in the past whether or not the department is having problems recruiting Doctors and RNs for outlying settlements. I wonder if the Minister could give me some information on that?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the boards are having difficulties in finding physicians. The  
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boards, I guess in the case of communities where they have private clinics for physicians are also having difficulties in recruiting physicians, as I indicated in my response to one of Mr. O'Brien's questions. In the area of nursing there is always a high turnover in vacancies, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Is the availability of housing in the small communities part of the problem?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I believe that may be a part of the problem. Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I suppose I should put a follow up question, then what is the department doing about it?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I was waiting for that follow up question, Madam Chair. I think what we are doing quite frankly, Madam Chair, is undertaking the human resource recruitment and retention plan in an aggressive manner over the next few months with our partners from the boards in trying to outline a detailed implementation plan on how we can recruit and retain our health care professionals. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. On a different subject, I would like to know if it would be compulsory for patients from Holman Island, after division, to be treated in the Inuvik hospital rather than in Stanton Regional Hospital, if the Inuvik hospital has the facilities?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I really cannot answer that question. I would expect that it would be a future western health Minister that would have some influence and some authority in that area, and as well, I would hope that the community of Holman, itself and the residents would strongly suggest where they would want to go for their medical services. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I am trying to figure out how many questions I have left. Four? Perhaps I will rephrase the question, then. Would Holman patients

be considered as part of the Beaufort Health Board after division? Is that what you are saying?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank You, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, what I am saying is, it would not be up to myself. It would be up to a western health Minister in respect to what he or she may want. It would depend, of course, on what the Holman residents would want, as well. I understand they have recently passed a resolution desiring or giving notice that they desire to stay with the Kitikmeot region in respect to a lot of their services. Those kind of details, future governments will have to work out. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Question number six, Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. My next question is more of a general nature. I wonder if the Minister can inform us of what the major issues are facing the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Justice at this time?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I guess that would be no different than any other social envelope departments, trying to meet the increasing demands with level resources without the increase in resources to meet those needs. I guess and try to shift away from some of the treatment initiatives and programs and into some of the preventative programs that will not show an immediate impact, but will show some long term impacts in respect to try to curtail growth and trying to improve the overall health and well-being of residents whether it is in the Nunavut side or on the western side, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Seventh, Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. You call it number seven, but it was part of number six. What about the part of the Department of Justice?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I was answering for both departments. It is no different in that there are limited resources for the Department of Justice, as well. There are increased demands because of a growing population and the higher incarceration rates, less tolerance by the courts, by the public for acts of violence that add to the pressure on the system, particularly on the correctional side. I think there is also, I guess in another issue, for both Justice and Health and Social Services, that some of the facilities requirements, quite frankly, those are two of the departments, that historically have been under funded in the past, even when there was adequate and sufficient capital resources available. Those facilities are deteriorating and coming to the end of their useful life. In a lot of circumstances need to be renovated or replaced over the course of the next few years, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Final question, Mr. Steen.  
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**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I will have to phrase this in the way of a question, I suppose. I would like to thank the Minister for his cooperation over the past couple of years. Can I be assured that it will continue?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Most definitely. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Next on the list, I have Mr Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Recognizing that it is close to midnight, at this time I would like to make a motion to report progress. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Your motion is in order. It is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion to report progress? All those opposed? Thank you, the motion is carried. Those of you who have run into the House with your hand up, do not count. They have to be in the House, in their seat when the question is called. I will now rise and report progress. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker your committee has been considering the topic, mid-term review and Tabled Document 1-13(5), Mid-Term Review Document and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Seconded by the Member for Inuvik, your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, item 22, orders of the day.

**ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

Orders of the day for Thursday, October 23, 1997:

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

7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 1, Power Corporation Act
  - Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act
  - Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act
  - Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Elections Act
  - Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2
  - Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act
  - Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Consideration of Mid-Term Review
  - Tabled Documents 1-13(5), Mid-Term Review Documents
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. By the authority given to the Speaker by resolution 3-13(5) this House stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 23, 1997.

--ADJOURNMENT