



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
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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 Kakwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, 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):

Good afternoon. Orders of the day. Item 2, budget address. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 2: BUDGET ADDRESS

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, it is with a certain sense of nostalgia that I rise before the House to present the last budget of the 13th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. With the tabling of this document, we will be putting the finishing touches on the fiscal history of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

At the same time, however, this budget looks ahead, not just for the next fiscal year, but the next century. The new policies and programs I am announcing today will help establish two strong and stable governments in Canada's north as we move into the new millennium. As we stand on the threshold of a new era, each and every Member of this Legislature can look back with pride on our collective accomplishments. Together, we made the difficult but necessary choices that have enabled us to regain control of our governments finances. We must now forge a future filled with promise for our children.

Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Members of this Assembly and the people of the Northwest Territories that the future has never looked better than it does today. There is every reason to believe that the north will achieve its tremendous potential in the 21st

century. For the first time in generations, events are taking shape that will allow northerners to assume their rightful place in Confederation.

First, there are the gains we have made since this government came to power that have created a climate of opportunity and optimism in the north. Not only have we balanced our budget, but we anticipate a small surplus proving we are capable of prudently managing our fiscal affairs. This kind of achievement instills investors with confidence that the north is a good place to do business.

As well, our business investment strategy has sent a clear signal to investors that they are welcome in the north. We are reviewing a number of initiatives to foster trade and investment that will bring new money and jobs into our region.

The settlement of land claims and most important, the creation of Nunavut and the new Western Territory, will create both certainty and opportunity. Collectively, these efforts spell better days ahead for the young people of the north.

Fiscal Overview

Mr. Speaker, the 1998-99 budget is designed to build on this progress. It is both responsible and compassionate, striking the right balance between responding to needs and seizing opportunities.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has worked hard to balance its books and achieve a stable financial base from which it can pro-actively deal with the needs of Northwest Territories residents. On a non-consolidated basis, the government finished the 1996-97 fiscal year with a \$12 million deficit which kept the accumulated deficit to \$41 million. To put this in perspective, \$41 million represents approximately three percent of our annual spending, or about two weeks of operating costs.

In 1997-98, the government anticipates a small surplus and a reduction in the accumulated deficit. For fiscal year 1998-99, we will bring in our second consecutive balanced budget, with spending estimated at \$1.161 billion and revenues forecast at \$1.163 billion.

It is important to emphasize, however, that our net fiscal position could be impacted by the results of the current negotiations with the Union of Northern Workers regarding pay equity. As I have stated on a number of occasions, while the government would

prefer a negotiated settlement to this issue, the outcome of the negotiations must be affordable to the people of the Northwest Territories. We cannot agree to a settlement that forces further job loss or program and service reduction to our people.

Mr. Speaker, this budget represents the prudent management of the financial resources of the Government of the Northwest Territories. It reflects the collective will of the Members of this Legislative Assembly to ensure that we live within our financial means. Most importantly, it enables us to put the two new territories on stable footing in their first few years of existence.

Division

We are at a pivotal stage in the north's development. A little over a year from now, the east and west will go their separate ways. While we will remain tied by our history, our heritage

Page 252

and our geography, each new territory will follow an independent path.

In the short term, however, it will be critical that we work in close cooperation. In bringing the promise of two new territories to realization, we must ensure that:

- services to our residents are not reduced or interrupted;
- assets and liabilities are fairly divided;
- commitments and contracts are honoured;
- staff are treated fairly; and
- the business of government continues without disruption.

We have achieved a great deal in this regard.

Of particular importance is the assurance of adequate funding for the two new territories. Our government has made it clear to the Special Committee on Financial Arrangements for Nunavut and the Western Territory that we believe the expenditure base of each territory should be determined separately, based on each region's requirements. These negotiations are not merely an exercise in dividing the funding currently provided to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

This government has completed extensive work as part of the discussions on financing arrangements after 1999. The special committee now has most of the information it requires to establish funding levels and financing mechanisms for Nunavut and the Western Territory. We expect to finalize the work of the special committee by early March to enable a federal decision to be made by April. It is crucial that funding levels be determined early so that work can begin on the preparation of budgets for the two new territories for fiscal year 1999-2000.

I am confident, Mr. Speaker, based on the discussions to date with the other northern parties and the federal government, including my conversations with the federal Finance Minister, the Honourable Paul Martin, that adequate funding will be available for the two new governments in Nunavut and the Western Territory. Overall, the creation of two new territories should have a very positive economic impact on the north.

Significant progress has also been made on the equitable division of assets and liabilities between the two new territories. A framework agreement laying out the principles to be applied and the methods to be used in this process has reached the final draft stage. We expect it will be finalized in early February and submitted for approval to the Interim Commissioner for Nunavut and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Discussions are also progressing on the treatment of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation and the Workers' Compensation Board post-April 1, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise that we are close to concluding several important protocol agreements with the Interim Commissioner. One agreement establishes how existing and new contract commitments made prior to April 1, 1999, will be reviewed by the Interim Commissioner and assigned to the new Nunavut government. This protocol is important to give businesses and financiers comfort that multi-year commitments can continue to be made and honoured. My honourable colleagues can appreciate that this agreement is of critical importance. It will ensure that there is no interruption in services to Nunavut residents given that many services are currently being delivered through contractual arrangements with third parties.

The second protocol agreement nearing completion concerns the transfer of existing staff to the new Nunavut government. As the House will be aware, the Deputy Premier, the Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, was

able to reach general agreement with the other parties at the recent Nunavut Leaders Meeting that this transfer will be as seamless as possible.

Our staff represent our most valuable resource. It is only with their continuing commitment that we will be able to ensure that the creation of two new territories is a success. Both the Western Territory and Nunavut will be exciting and challenging places to work, offering many opportunities for career and personal development. Our staff and new leaders need to understand this and focus on forging new relationships based on mutual trust and respect.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to confirm that we have reached agreement with the Interim Commissioner to implement a \$4.24 million human resource computer system. The Office of the Interim Commissioner has agreed to pay 50 percent of the total implementation cost as well as its 40 percent proportion of the software licence fees. This leading edge, integrated system will reduce unnecessary duplication and overlap, both during transition and post-division, and will benefit both new territories.

In summary, I am convinced that we are on the road to ensuring that the creation of two new territories is a success and that we meet Premier Morin's objective of ensuring that April 1, 1999 is a day of celebration for both new territories.

Economic Climate

Mr. Speaker, economic growth is critical to the long-term fiscal health of both new governments. A stronger economy will provide new sources of revenue to support much-needed housing, food allowances, health care and other social programs for our rapidly-growing population. Just as important, a growing economy will provide jobs for our young people and unemployed.

The small business sector is increasingly playing a larger role in the national economy. Long-term growth in the north will also depend on incentives and investments to encourage the start-up or expansion of small and medium-sized northern businesses.

Investment in northern business is key to the long-term growth of our economy. Traditionally, small firms have had difficulty in accessing equity capital. This was examined in 1996 by the Investment Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, which recommended that

the government consider investment tax credits as a means of encouraging investment in the north.

Page 253

I am pleased to announce, Mr. Speaker, that this government intends to introduce the Northwest Territories Investment Tax Credit Program, which will encourage the private sector to market shares of Northwest Territories businesses to northern taxpayers and encourage northern investors to purchase shares in up-and-coming northern businesses. Under the program, investors will be able to choose from a menu of investment vehicles: labour-sponsored venture capital funds; employee/labour-sponsored venture capital funds; community endorsed venture capital funds; and private new common share sales. Eligible investors will receive a credit against Northwest Territories income tax payable of up to 30 percent, for a maximum of \$100,000 of eligible shares in any tax year. As well, northern investors may be eligible for Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) tax deductions. For example, an investment of \$10,000 would result in a Northwest Territories tax credit of \$3,000. In addition, if the investment is made through an RRSP, a further deduction worth up to \$4,400 would be available. RRSP eligibility is, of course, dependent on the taxpayer's available federal RRSP room.

All funds raised will be used to assist in financing the start-up or expansion of Northwest Territories businesses. This program will allow for a maximum of \$1 million in tax credits to be granted in 1998, rising to \$5 million in the year 2000. If fully taken up, \$5 million in tax credits would generate approximately \$35 million in equity and debt financing in Northwest Territories businesses.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the new Northwest Territories Investment Tax Credit Program, business development and job creation will be further supported by a \$16 million infusion through the second year of the Northern Employment Strategy.

Through the combined initiative of the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi; the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Charles Dent and the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Honourable Manik Thompson, funding for this program has been strategically placed to ensure a broad but balanced

approach between short-term job creation and longer-term sustainable economic growth.

Since this program was initiated in June of last year, we have seen a number of measurable results:

- The Department of Education, Culture and Employment has provided support to the private sector and municipal employers to hire 863 unemployed students and youth.

- In the year-to-date, the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development has directly invested \$9.5 million in economic development partnerships that resulted in cost-shared projects with a total value of \$34 million. These projects stimulated 48,000 part and full-time work weeks of employment or the equivalent of 1,200 full-time jobs.

- The Department Municipal and Community Affairs has invested over \$3 million in initiatives designed to prepare communities to take responsibility for their own governance and for the transfer of programs from the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, detailed reports showing the impacts of investment by program are currently being developed and will be provided to Members of this House for review. However, the results to date give a positive indication that we are meeting our intended goal of developing the economy and providing positive alternatives to income support through the creation of jobs and economic opportunity.

Resource Development

While we are committed to encouraging the small business sector, no sector of the economy holds more promise than the mining industry. Diamonds have, quite literally, become the jewel in the north's crown. For all our vast wealth in renewable and nonrenewable resources, nothing rivals the enormous job-creation and economic-growth potential of diamond development.

Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to ensuring that the north receives a fairer share of royalties generated by resource development. As things now stand, the federal government may earn up to \$4.4 billion in royalties and tax revenues over the 25-year life of the first diamond mine while the territorial government will collect approximately \$400 million. This ratio is clearly unacceptable.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we are committed to ensuring that northerners realize the benefits of

secondary and value-added industries resulting from the mining of diamonds. Key issues related to the development of these industries include ensuring firstly, that a diamond sorting and valuation facility is established in a Northwest Territories community away from the mine site and, secondly, that northerners have preferred access to a secure and affordable supply of diamond rough.

It is for these reasons that the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi and I met with the federal Ministers of Finance and Indian and Northern Affairs last fall to lobby for the establishment of the Task Force on the Canadian Diamond Industry. Working in partnership with the Government of Canada, we will develop a strategic framework to maximize the long-term benefits of the diamond industry for the north. We are particularly keen to explore opportunities for secondary and value-added industries that create new jobs for the people of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, also key to a greater share of resource revenues is the devolution of mineral, oil and gas responsibilities and royalties from Canada to the territorial government, a goal we are determined to realize over the long term. As well, we are dedicated to achieving the decentralization of the Northern Affairs program of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. Our government will continue to seek the transfer of federal employees from Ottawa to the Northwest Territories to ensure federal programs better reflect, and respond to, northerners' needs. This initiative is being led by Premier Morin, who has met on several occasions with the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs to press this issue.

Page 254

Mr. Speaker, as much promise as the diamond industry holds for the north, we also recognize the difficulties currently being experienced in the gold industry and the tremendous effect this has had on many of our residents employed in this sector. Falling gold prices have resulted in the shut-down of the Colomac and Lupin mines and the layoff of a significant number of people from the two gold mines in Yellowknife. We all recognize there is little northerners can do to influence world gold prices. However, this government is working with both the federal and municipal governments to assist workers and their families who have been affected by these events. In addition, we are working in partnership with the Government of Canada, the City of Yellowknife, mine management and labour to

examine options that support the commitment demonstrated by Miramar to keep the Con Mine operating and contributing to the northern economy.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to note the impact on these events on government revenues. Although we expect government's tax revenues to be negatively affected in 1998-99, our current Formula Financing Agreement with Canada ensures that approximately 80 percent of these revenue declines will be off-set by increased funding through the grant from Canada. The fiscal stability that this provides will help us weather the current downturn in world gold prices.

Public Infrastructure

Mr. Speaker, every bit as important as the economy, is our investment in the north's social and political future. We know now that we must address the root cause of economic and social conditions if we are to improve life for our residents. As my grandmother always used to say, penny wise, pound foolish. If we are to successfully address many of the current economic and social conditions that prevent improvements in health, community well-being, educational attainment and economic self-sufficiency, we must invest in areas such housing, hospitals, health centres and new roads.

Our attention to balancing our budget during the past two years has now enabled us to deal with the larger social and economic challenges facing the Northwest Territories. Although we must remain vigilant to avoid spending beyond our means, we now have some limited fiscal flexibility. By using our limited dollars to lever investments by others, we can achieve significant results.

Mr. Speaker, there are few areas where the need for strategic investments is more acute than in the area of public infrastructure. Federal funding cuts have forced us to reduce spending on infrastructure, from \$200 million annually to the current level of \$140 million. An additional \$40 million has been lost through the reduction in federal social housing funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

In response to this situation, the government recently commissioned a report to examine ways that funding could be levered to increase the amount invested in public infrastructure. Specifically, the report considered the potential for Public/Private Partnerships (P3) to be applied in the Northwest Territories. These partnerships have been widely

used by over 100 countries to capture the best of both public and private sector capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, Public/Private Partnerships and other innovative financing approaches are not magic. They are simply a better way to finance investments critical to the enhancement of public infrastructure. We intend to learn from the lessons learned in other jurisdictions and ensure that these types of partnerships proceed in an affordable and transparent manner.

I am pleased to announce that this government intends to increase its current \$140 million annual investment in vital public infrastructure by up to \$100 million in each of the next two years. These additional projects are currently being identified and will be brought forward to the Legislative Assembly for consideration in March. By applying P3 approaches to public infrastructure investment, this additional investment should be possible without increasing our overall annual spending levels. Mr. Speaker, this increased investment will not only help address many of our critical social needs and lay the foundation for future economic growth but will provide badly needed construction jobs in our communities over the next two years.

One specific area of infrastructure development of great importance to the people of the Northwest Territories is our health care facilities. 1998-99 will be an intensive planning year for both the Department of Health and Social Services and the regional boards as they prepare to replace and enhance territorial hospitals in several communities.

Mr. Speaker, not only will we invest in infrastructure, we are committed to investing in northern people. We are determined that each and every citizen north of 60 will have the same standard of living and quality of life enjoyed by other Canadians.

At the top of the priority list is adequate housing. Research shows that overcrowded, overly expensive housing is a root cause of many of the Northwest Territories health, social and educational problems. These problems have been compounded by the withdrawal of federal funding for new social housing.

It is with great pride that I announce this government's Accelerated Home Ownership Program Delivery which will help address the north's current housing shortfall. As part of its increased infrastructure investment, the Government of the Northwest Territories is proposing to apply an additional \$40

million to \$50 million over the next two years to meet the immediate demands for home ownership assistance. This will allow the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, the Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, to accelerate home ownership program delivery to help more northerners, particularly in smaller communities with a heavier reliance on public housing.

We are optimistic that this new program will result in upwards of 1,000 new housing units being constructed across the Northwest Territories over the next two years. In this way, existing social housing units will be freed up for those families with the lowest incomes while more people who qualify under

Page 255

the corporation's Expanded Down Payment Assistance Program and Independent Housing Programs will be able to know the satisfaction of home ownership.

The benefits do not end there. New housing means new jobs in construction and manufacturing, and all the spin-off benefits those sectors create. It also means that any government housing made surplus through new home ownership can be turned over to the Housing Corporation for public housing making more housing available to those facing the greatest hardship.

In Nunavut, we will be seeking the endorsement of the Interim Commissioner for these infrastructure initiatives.

Social Program Spending

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the most crucial area for investment is our children, the north's future. Each of us is only too aware of the damaging, long-term effects of child poverty.

I am particularly pleased to announce, in cooperation with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, a new Northwest Territories Child Benefit that will put more money into the hands of low income families across the Northwest Territories. As part of the National Child Benefit Program, announced by the federal government last year, the Government of the Northwest Territories has agreed to reinvest income support payments offset by the federal portion of the program and to supplement this with \$2 million in additional funding.

Starting in July of this year, the Northwest Territories Child Benefit Program will provide a minimum of \$330 per child to all families with net incomes less than \$20,921. Families with at least \$10,000 in earned income will receive \$605 per year for the first child, \$405 for the second child, and \$330 for each subsequent child. The benefit will be phased out as income increases, but all families with less than \$42,000 in net income will receive some benefit. In our estimate, almost 60 percent of the children in the Northwest Territories will benefit from this program.

A related, and equally important, initiative is the enhancement of Income Support Food Allowance. Nutritional food is critical to disease prevention, healthy development and children's school performance. The food allowance rates have not changed since 1992, despite changes to the road or food supply services in many communities over the years. This government will make \$1 million available to adjust the rates paid for food within the Income Support Program and to ensure that communities are placed within the proper food cost zones. These funds will ensure that additional financial support is available to purchase food for northern families.

Conclusion

Mr. Speaker, this budget represents a fresh start for the Northwest Territories. It makes clear that the painful cuts and period of restraint are behind us. The stage is set for economic growth and prosperity.

The fiscal framework we table today will create the foundation on which to build two viable, financially sound territories. With these measures, we will ensure that businesses - large and small - can be confident that their investments will yield long-term returns.

We will ensure that the north is a place where young people can find meaningful and rewarding work. Where families are assured they can meet the basic needs of their children. Where there is hope and opportunity for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, the future will be what we make it. I have every confidence that, as we turn the page on both this century and this government's brief history, we will see a new north that flourishes in the new millennium.

Critical challenges still confront us. Yet, we have never been better positioned to overcome them. Now, let us work together and get on with the job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 56-13(5): Congratulations to High School Graduates

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate some graduates for grade 12 in my constituency. In 1997 there were five graduates in Igloolik and in Hall Beach who graduated on December 27th, and I would like to thank their instructors especially in Hall Beach because this is the first program they have had in Hall Beach. I believe this program was conducted for five years in Igloolik. Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 57-13(5): Pelly Bay Sealift Subsidies

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will make a general brief statement on the Pelly Bay Transportation Assistance Program. Prior to 1993, a sealift service was not available to the residents of Pelly Bay. All the building materials, products, petroleum products and consumer items were flown into the community of Pelly Bay. In recognition of the high cost of consumer items, the transportation assistance subsidy was provided for the essential goods only, normally available through the sealift service equal to the public service rate to the nearest community to Pelly Bay, in this case Taloyoak. Subsidy was phased out since the introduction of the sealift in 1993. Mr. Speaker, up to this point in time, the hamlet council of Pelly Bay, together with the coop organization of Pelly Bay has made a request of this government to do something about the cost of transportation into the community. Pelly Bay, in the Kitikmeot region has the highest cost of living. Mr. Speaker,

we have met with the Minister responsible for Transportation, government services regarding this matter. At the appropriate time I will be asking the Minister of Transportation, if he is the right Minister, regarding the status of the request. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 58-13(5): Deh Cho Leaders Meeting

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday my honourable colleague, Mr. Antoine, mentioned the Deh Cho Leaders' meeting held in Hay River Reserve this past week. The reason I bring this up is that I, too, was in attendance, along with the Dogrib Treaty 11 delegation. This was a very interesting and informative meeting where many issues were brought forward. I would also agree with Mr. Antoine that it was encouraging to see the level of cooperation building. It has been many years since I have seen the cooperation and frank discussions that took place between my regions and Deh Cho regions and various level of governments. All participants should feel proud of their accomplishments, and it is without a doubt that more meetings of this type will happen over the months to come. This will help steer our country towards division and a First Nations' land claims settlement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Rabesca. Member's statements. Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement 59-13(5): Inuvik's Cost of Living

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are here to govern on behalf of the people we represent. The young, the elderly, the sick, healthy, the employed and the unemployed. Mr. Speaker, I have had a chance to talk to many people during the time I spent at home this Christmas. I have heard from those who are fortunate to still have jobs, and they are wondering how much longer things will drag on for. Small businesses are closing their doors. Those that can afford to leave are doing just that. Many who are leaving are doing so, not because they want to but because they can find work elsewhere, and for the

same job in other jurisdictions, they receive equal or better pay than in the north.

Mr. Speaker, Inuvik was once a place where work was plentiful, where contractors did not have to rely strictly on government. Well, things have changed. At the high point of Inuvik's history, we had a population of between 7,000 to 8,000 people. According to the census of 1996, Inuvik is at almost 3,300. If you talk to the people, they say it is more like 2,500. Mr. Speaker, at this time I request unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Inuvik is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? Mr. Roland, you have unanimous consent.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you Members. Mr. Speaker, I do not make a habit of looking at all the negative things around us. I try and look for the light at the end of the tunnel, but it is difficult to do so when so many are struggling to make ends meet. It is a wonder why so many want to take control away from the Government of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, it is time for this government to put action into its words. If we want the respect of the people we represent, then we better start doing more than blowing off hot air. Mr. Speaker, in closing we have heard this afternoon of some of the positive news that might come our way. After two budgets that focused on reductions, we can finally tell the people, no more reductions. Mr. Speaker, the community of Inuvik looks forward to receiving some of the benefits from our prudent fiscal management. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 60-13(5): Improving Fiscal Outlook

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the 13th Assembly took office and came aboard the ship of state, it was headed for some very rocky fiscal shoals. Today, I see as a good day, and I would like to commend the Minister for what I see is a good news budget, but we cannot forget the only reason that this happened is because 24 MLAs sat around this House

together, and we made some very hard decisions. We did it because we knew we had to, and we did it because we had to work together. Mr. Speaker, on this day when we move to a brighter future; hopefully, we cannot forget the people we represent. While we made the decisions, hard as they were; they have had to live with them. I think we have to remember very clearly as we move forward that they are paying the price for our decisions, and hopefully, they will now benefit as we move to a brighter future. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 61-13(5): Yellowknife Airport Stop Signs

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in this House I mentioned a mini-construction boom going on at the Yellowknife airport. Accordingly, that is not the only thing going at the Yellowknife airport. Mr. Speaker, I have received numerous complaints from businesses and individual constituents about the installation of stop signs at every intersection on the service road at the Yellowknife airport. These stop signs interfere with the natural flow of traffic at the

Page 257

airport and are not appreciated or thought to be needed by any of the tenants at the airport. In fact Mr. Speaker, I have had several phone calls and cannot identify a single individual who is in favour of this installation of stop signs. Mr. Speaker when this government took over the operation of the Yellowknife airport from the federal government, I had a vision of increased cooperation between the tenants and our government and a meaningful consultation process that would involve the tenants and the operations at the airport. This seems to be, Mr. Speaker, a bureaucratic decision and I cannot find anyone who was consulted on the installation of these stop signs. Mr. Speaker, I stated yesterday, that the transportation industry is one of the positive economic indicators in Yellowknife. I believe that as a government, it is our responsibility to work with industry and not put up road blocks or stop signs that would impede that progress. Mr. Speaker, later on in

question period I will be addressing some questions to the Minister responsible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 62-13(5): Public Service Uncertainties

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about the public service and the employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories and some of the uncertainties that they have had to cope with over the past two years. Our Minister of Finance has referred to our staff today as one of our most valuable resources. First, there will be amendments to the Public Service Act, which most MLAs agreed, although a bitter pill, had to be concurred with in order to meet our deficit reduction targets. This resulted in an across the board wage roll-back of 6.5 percent and the loss of other benefits.

While dealing with this, there was also the compounded effect of reductions in funds for operating most departments and the associated layoffs, as a further cost-saving measure. Some of our employees in the larger departments also had to live with the uncertainty of layoffs resulting from amalgamation of departments and the proposed amalgamations, which ultimately did not proceed. In the midst of this uncertainty there were casualties as would be expected. Since people generally do not like to work and live for too long in an environment of declining morale associated with lack of job security, many good and long-term employees of our government sought other employment opportunities, early retirement, et cetera.

I do not know if we will ever know for sure the cumulative effect on our public service of roll-backs, layoffs, transfers, increased workloads and uncertainty, but in the midst of all this another uncertainty has arisen. The government, partly in response to the problems acknowledged, related to pay equity questions, has undertaken to re-evaluate all government positions. This process should have been completed on January 15th, just one week ago. The, as yet, unanswered question which this evaluation process raises is, what is going to be done with the information that is collected when it is completed? Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about

the negative impact that uncertainty has on our public workforce, and I will be questioning the appropriate Minister about this today in question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 63-13(5): Recognition of Public Servants

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking in Inuktitut. Mr. Speaker, representing our community, I was told by an employee of the Government of the Northwest Territories that they do not receive enough recognition. I found a problem with that because I find that we have made a lot of layoffs in the employment of the public service, and we do not even recognize our employees when they have contributed five years of their employment for the public service. I have a problem with this. For the employees who have contributed ten years of their lives to working within the public service, they have done so because of enjoyment in their employment, but there was no recognition on their behalf. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 64-13(5): Homeless People

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about some forgotten people in our communities. I speak of those that many people would wish would disappear, the homeless. Mr. Speaker, every day when we sit down to eat, these people are wandering around with no place to eat. Every night when we are getting ready to sleep, dozens of people in Yellowknife are wandering around looking for a place to sleep. Can you imagine what it is like looking for a place to sleep when it is 40 below? Mr. Speaker, to illustrate the problem, a couple of my constituents have been in the news lately. They have a small shack in the Old Town, and they consistently let several people, sometimes up to ten people a night stay there. This is causing great concern to their neighbours. Yellowknife is not the

only centre that has homeless people. Community people seem to gravitate to the larger centres. Inuvik, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit all have homeless. Studies have shown that people who are homeless cause more crimes and have greater social problems, things like drug and alcohol abuse, theft, break and enters, prostitution. Mr. Speaker, we cannot rely on our citizens to help all the homeless. That is our responsibility as a government, a responsibility that we seem to be shirking. Later today, I will ask the appropriate Minister what we are doing to help the NWT homeless. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 65-13(5): DIAND Diamond Responsibilities

Page 258

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance on his remarks and speech today. It was made under difficult financial restraints, and some good ideas have come out, but I am not here to speak on that, Mr. Speaker. Before I carry on with my topic, I would just like to say I have some ideas of my own on that, and over the next several days, I will be speaking to the report that Mr. Todd has made. I want to focus my comments today, Mr. Speaker, on the diamond issue.

MR. SPEAKER:

Can we have some order? Mr. Ootes, Members are only allowed to make one statement per day. I would like to ask you to stick to that one statement. I will allow you to make your statement, but please, just a reminder.

MR. OOTES:

My apologies, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your indulgence. I want to focus my comments today on my abject frustration with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and its continued mishandling of the diamond portfolio. Many of us here in Yellowknife have spent an inordinate amount of time to get valuation sorting done in our community. We have travelled to Europe, initiated the formation of the Yellowknife Diamond Task Force. We lobbied federal officials, but it is hard to lobby

people who will not listen. In December, the Yellowknife Diamond Task Force travelled to Ottawa but were refused a meeting with DIAND Minister, Jane Stewart, or her top officials. To snub a delegation led by Mayor Dave Lovell and the largest city in the Northwest Territories served to remind me once again of the arrogance of DIAND, and how they are not interested in listening to the elected officials of the Northwest Territories. They dropped the ball on the whole diamond issue and are obviously too embarrassed to pick it up. They failed to make valuation sorting facilities in the north a prerequisite of a development permit. Minister Stewart still does not appreciate how much money and how many jobs are at stake for the future of Canada. An industry that is worth some \$56 billion annually by the time it reaches the consumer, and by De Beers reckoning, Canada may some day produce 15 percent of the world's diamond. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? Mr. Ootes, you have unanimous consent.

MR. OOTES:

Again, thank you for your indulgence and the Members. DIAND has gone so far as to dismiss our ideas as the myth of benefits. The Minister must be more responsible about an issue that stands to pour \$4.4 billion into the federal coffers over the next 25 years, and she could double those Canadian benefits if she would listen to us. I want to remind the Minister she is in charge not just of aboriginal affairs but also of northern economic development, and that means paying attention to the elected leaders of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 66-13(5): Lupin Mine Closure

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on January 6th, Echo Bay announced the temporary closure of the Lupin Mine. The impact was on approximately

480 total employees, we are told. Of those, 40 were full-time positions from Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay in my constituency. There were another 15 to 20 part-time seasonal jobs affiliated with that for work on the Ulu Project and the ice road. That equates to approximately \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million of income. This supposedly temporary closure is regrettable. It is regrettable to the company and their shareholders for their investment in the Northwest Territories. It is regrettable for the businesses that provided some of the services. Mr. Speaker, not only is it regrettable, but it is tragic for all the employees that were employed there, employees who had mortgages and loans, employees who had families to support.

Of particular concern to myself, of course, is the 50 to 60 families impacted in the Kitikmeot constituency. Although the layoffs have been a bad situation for them, there has been some positive aspects of the closure. The closure has drawn together the community agencies in support of the laid-off employees. The hamlet councils; the Kitikmeot Inuit Association; the Kitikmeot Community Economic Development Organization; the GNWT through the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and Education, Culture, and Employment. The regional health and social services boards have all come together to support the laid-off employees, along with Human Resources Development Canada. Representatives of those organizations have formed the working group that are committed to minimizing the impact on these laid off employees and assisting them in their time of transition. Skilled profiles will be collected of the employees. Assistance will be provided in developing resumes which will be forwarded to mining and exploration companies. Income producing and training opportunities for those wishing to access them will be provided. Personal counselling and money management counselling will be provided to those wishing to access them. In the interim, two former employees have been contracted, Lucy Ivarluk of Kugluktuk and Eddie Maniyogina of Cambridge Bay to act as a liaison between the laid-off employees and the support group. I want to close by saying I commend all those involved in the spirit of cooperation that they have put together in trying to assist these employees in their time of need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Members' statements. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Enuaraq.

ITEM 6: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize the mayor of Broughton Island, Lootie Toomasie and also the mayor of Pangnirtung, Joanasi Maniapik. Thank you.

--Applause

Page 259

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a great pleasure for me to take a moment to introduce His Worship, Mayor Dave Lovell of Yellowknife, also the Chairman of the Yellowknife Diamond Task Force, Mayor Lovell.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Natsiq Kango, as well as Victor Tootoo, who are in the gallery. They are from NTI. (Translation ends)

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the gallery today is Mr. Ken Harper, a well known local businessman in Iqaluit, Mr. Jerry Ell from the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, and Natsiq Kango from

Iqaluit, who is also the secretary treasurer for NTI, introduced earlier by Mr. Barnabas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a few people in the gallery today. Normally I do not get an opportunity because I very seldom see the people behind. Some former Members of this House, Mr. Speaker, Fred Koe and Michael Ballantyne, I believe, are in the House. Mayor Lovell has been identified. Ben McDonald. I believe some of the deputy ministers of the government are here, Don Cooper, Penny Ballantyne, Margaret Melhorn and Lew Voytilla. I also believe some of the Yellowknife business community that I would like to identify: Jack Walker, Tony Chang, Allan Vaughan and Alex Arychuk. I believe Garth Malakoe the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce president is here as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a large crowd up there today, and it is an honour to see such a large turnout. So in case Mr. Henry might have missed someone, I would like to recognize all the other people who have not gotten recognized at this time.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person from Pond Inlet, Billy Merkosak. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the opportunity today for all the days when all the rest of you are not here, there is somebody who is here every day and that is the president of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, Pat Thomas.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. We will take a 15-minute break. I would like to invite people in the gallery for coffee, tea and munchies in the Great Hall.

--Break

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 61-13(5): Pelly Bay Resupply Concerns

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Earlier today I made a Member's statement regarding the Transportation Assistance Program for Pelly Bay. While we recognize the government and appreciate the sealift to Pelly Bay, it makes things much easier for the community in the area of transportation. The community of Pelly Bay, together with the hamlet council and Taloyoak organizations in the community, feel that we have not gained anything since we were able to get the transportation through the sealift. In fact, the people of Pelly Bay feel that the only body that benefitted from this initiative is the Government of the NWT. We are able to cut the costs of transportation of the construction materials, heating fuel, at the same time the cost of the groceries to the community increased somewhat. I do not think that is fair. The community of Pelly Bay does not think that is fair. My question, Mr. Speaker is directed to the Minister of Transportation. Will the Minister direct his officials to communicate with the Hamlet of Pelly Bay regarding the request to ensure that the transportation

costs will be equivalent to the next community, in this case Taloyoak? At this point in time the freight rate is much higher than that of that community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 61-13(5): Pelly Bay Resupply Concerns

Page 260

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to reply to the honourable Member by first going back into the background on this situation in Pelly Bay. Mr. Speaker, in the past Pelly Bay was getting subsidized, their dry cargo used to be flown up by air from Winnipeg and there was no sealift at that time so a lot of the dry cargo was subsidized. The fuel was shipped to Hall Beach and then flown into Pelly Bay which was very expensive. In 1992-93, Mr. Speaker, the sealift was initiated and dry cargo was shipped to Nanisivik mines and then the coastguard would carry this cargo to Pelly Bay in the summer time. The gasoline itself continued to be airlifted from Hall Beach, which is still quite expensive today. We have had discussions with the Canadian Coastguard and we are moving into active discussions as well with the Interim Commissioner, along with the coastguard on the eastern Arctic sealifts future and would like to continue to bring down the costs of dry cargo and fuel resupply to remote communities such as Pelly Bay. We are basing these discussions on trying to be fair and trying to be equitable in costs between all the communities up in the north. We are into active discussions with the principal bodies. We are working mainly with the Canadian Coastguard. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 61-13(5): Pelly Bay Resupply Concerns

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the same honourable Minister. We know the history of the transportation into the community of Pelly Bay as I indicated earlier today regarding that it was 1993, but service was not available prior to that year. At the

same time, I will again remind the Minister the community is paying the costs of transportation so that government will enjoy the substantial reduction since the barge closed to that community. When will the Minister communicate with the Hamlet of Pelly Bay to try and reduce the costs equivalent to the next neighbouring community, again in this case Taloyoak.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 61-13(5): Pelly Bay Resupply Concerns

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before 1993 the community was paying very reasonable costs and the government was picking up a lot of the extra costs in terms of a subsidy to the community. Once the sealift was introduced, then that subsidy had been lifted and the community then was paying close to the actual costs of delivery of transportation of the dry goods and the heating fuel. Our goal, in our discussions with the Canadian Coastguard, which are the carrier of the dry cargo from Nanisivik, is to come down on the costs of the dry cargo in Pelly Bay and all the other communities. Again, I must say that this community was previously subsidized quite substantially. Again, I want to mention that there is active discussions going on with the carrier, the Canadian Coastguard and the Interim Commissioner. The honourable Member is asking when is this cost going to be put into effect? After the discussions are done, along with the requests that I am hearing from the honourable Member; then we will have a better understanding of whether we are going to reduce the costs or put in a subsidy or not. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 61-13(5): Pelly Bay Resupply Concerns

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the honourable Minister for that reply, but he indicated that there is active discussion between the coastguard and this government and the Interim Commissioner. I am wondering if the community is part of that active discussion? Since 1993 we were told as a result of the barge or Canadian Coastguard going into Pelly

Bay, there was a substantial amount of savings realized by this government. In fact, I was told that around \$500,000. That is a lot of money. I am hoping that because government has gained from this initiative, will the government share that gain with the community? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 61-13(5): Pelly Bay Resupply Concerns

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this current contract that we have in regard to delivering of dry cargo expires at the end of 1998. I guess the active discussion is looking at how are we going to deal with dry cargo after this contract expires? As for, what did the government gain? I do not really know the numbers, but I could look into that matter, but I do not think that the government really gained in this matter. I think if we were subsidizing the community so that to bring the costs down; then, you know, the cost of transportation was picked up by the government at that time and by putting in the sealifts, the cost of this subsidy has been greatly reduced. Maybe that is the way the government benefitted, by having a less expense into subsidizing the community. I will take the question from the honourable Member and since he is talking about specific numbers, I will check that out and get back to the honourable Member with more detailed information. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 61-13(5): Pelly Bay Resupply Concerns

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that when the subsidy was provided to the community, it was in the neighbourhood of \$100,000 a year, and I am told that there is a saving realized in the area of \$500,000. Now we are talking about \$400,000 that is being realized by this government. Will the Minister now communicate with the Hamlet of Pelly Bay tomorrow or Monday regarding this matter? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Page 261

Further Return To Question 61-13(5): Pelly Bay Resupply Concerns

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 62-13(5): Post-Budget Meetings

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Deputy Premier. After the fine budget speech, we were all invited to a reception and it was quickly clear that there were actually two receptions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Shame, Shame.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

This was a source of considerable discussion and questions and wonderment. It appeared upstairs that there was a select few who were invited upstairs where they nibbled on shrimp and smoked char.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Shame, Shame.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

The rest of the folks downstairs were drinking kool aid and juice and eating crackers.

--Laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to remind the Member from Thebacha that this preamble has nothing to do with Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Out of respect, I just want to say that it relates to the government and the handling of this budget. Where we talk of transparency and the

only transparency we saw upstairs was there was a glass window which our noses were pressed against wondering what was going on inside. I would just like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister or Deputy Premier, sorry, if you could speak to this issue and maybe clear the air as we try to chart ahead into a brave new future together after having made very many difficult decisions together. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I am not too sure if I heard a question in there, but I would like to remind the Members that when they direct a question to the Minister, the question must be relating to the government, to that Minister, its responsibility, the administration of that government and that it is within his knowledge. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for that guidance. I will try to be a little clearer. I would like the Deputy Premier, the head of the government, who put forward this budget, and I am assuming set up this particular nice reception, just to speak to the structure and why was it set up as a two-tiered kind of approach? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Deputy Premier, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 62-13(5): Post-Budget Meetings

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I would start off by congratulating the Finance Minister for an excellent job in putting the budget together, and for the first time since we began deliberating, some of the best news that the government has been able to come up with and announcing things like job creation to the tune of 1,000 new jobs, over 1,000 new houses, a balanced budget, et cetera, and the list goes on and on, help for the poor, more money for social assistance, food baskets, et cetera.

I would add that the Finance Minister and his staff have been working literally day and night over the last few weeks putting this together. Although other Members of the Legislative Assembly chose not to recognize that this afternoon, the government certainly does. Part of the approach in the new budget is that the government's new incentives and initiatives will require a good deal of monies from the private sector because a lot of the principals are to

lever money from companies, from banks, et cetera to get a lot of these projects off the ground. They are significant amounts of dollars, over the \$100 million range. What we had in the audience today were some of the members of the banking community, of the businesses that will be partners with government in delivering all this good news. The banking community and others were asked by the Finance Minister to give some initial reaction today on their first impressions of some of these initiatives, and this is part of the consultation of this discussion that needs to occur to make sure that these initiatives are realized and that things forge ahead. I did not mention shrimp and so forth. The mention of shrimp and so forth, I did not see any. They might have some left over that the Ordinary Members had yesterday over in the Member's lounge, but...

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Bravo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Once again, I think the Minister of Finance has done an excellent job.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 62-13(5): Post-Budget Meetings

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think anybody will argue with that fine and somewhat extensive preamble about the budget and the work done by the Finance Minister and his people. It is a highly symbolic issue here. As the discussion goes on, we talk about a two-tiered reception. When we made these cuts as a government, we asked all the people to share the burden. When it comes time to move on, the bankers and certain people eat shrimp and smoked char, and the people who had to live with all the cuts and work through the process are forced to eat crackers and kool aid. I do not think that message is the right one that you are trying to send on such a long day as this. Would not the Deputy Premier agree that it is not the message we are trying to send to the people of the north? We are going to prosper together. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I did not hear a question there, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is, is this event today symbolic of the way that we intend to move forward where there will be two different kinds of prospering in the north, and is that the message we are sending to the many people we invited here today? A lot of the people who worked hard and lived with the cuts, are we sending a message that there is a two-tiered approach to the way we are going to move forward in prosperity? There was not one when we had the cuts. We all had to live with it together.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Shame, shame.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 62-13(5): Post-Budget Meetings

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I refer the technical part of the answer to the Minister of Finance, I would like to make it clear again that this is not a two-tiered approach. What we have is a partnership arrangement where the government is finally dealing with a balanced budget after many, many sacrifices and cooperation between the Cabinet, other Members of the Legislative Assembly, our staff and all people of the Northwest Territories and that we need to foster and encourage these partnerships. The bankers and businessmen are one but also a significant partner, so are others in the Northwest Territories. If it is okay with you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to refer the rest of the answer to Mr. Todd.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, Mr. Speaker, I hope the bankers are not listening. Quite frankly, after working two years with

my colleague, it is disappointing that is what it has amounted to when we come forward and worked hard to put together a budget that is balanced, creative and proactive. There is no two tiered system here. All I am trying to do is bring in the banks who are going to lend the monies to make sure that we get the infrastructure requirements in our communities, and frankly, I am embarrassed at the level of conversation that is going on here right now. Embarrassed. I do not find it amusing one bit.

What we have been providing the banks with for the last two days are technical briefings on where we are going with respect to the new initiatives to reassure them that this government has balanced its budget and has got its fiscal house in order and suddenly talking about shrimps and two-tiered system does nothing to lend credibility to what we are doing here today. It is not a two-tiered system. It was a private discussion between the bankers, what I was introducing, and some of the business community who can speak and enhance and support the policies that we are bringing forward to move us into the new millennium. That is what all this was. If I have offended my colleagues on the other side because they did not get shrimp like they did yesterday, I apologize. We have spent weeks trying to convince bankers that we know what we are doing. I spent weeks trying to ask them to come to the north so they can understand what is going on. We are taking them to BHP tomorrow to show them the kind of magnitude of the projects going on in this country, that it has a future. It is not a two-tiered system. It is not an issue about shrimp. This is an issue about credibility. This is an issue about investment money. This is an issue about encouraging bankers to open their purses and give it to the people that we need to put the infrastructure in place.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 62-13(5): Post-Budget Meetings

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then I guess we are embarrassed but for different reasons. I am embarrassed that this government would think that it could treat people differently, that ordinary people, not Ordinary MLAs, who we invited to our reception, be treated differently. I am not denying the hard work

and the value of this budget, but I think it is very symbolic. So it is unfortunate that we all feel joint embarrassment for the wrong reasons. We have worked very hard and we have asked the people of the north, every one of them, to tighten their belts, take pay cuts, get programs cut, lose benefits. This is a symbolic issue. We are worried about packaging and the message we are sending we have to work...

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Miltenberger, I would like to remind Members that you are allowed the preamble at the beginning of your questions, and then once the question is responded to, then you can ask a supplementary regarding the response. I will remind the Members that I will start applying that rule in the House. Too many times, Members are continuously going on without asking questions at preamble for every time you make a supplementary. It is not allowed. Members should know that. Mr. Miltenberger, your supplementary.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Supplementary question to the Deputy Premier, this is not a technical question, Mr. Speaker. Are not the people, the ordinary people of the Northwest Territories entitled to the same kind of consideration as the bankers and the money men? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 62-13(5): Post-Budget Meetings

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The residents of the Northwest Territories are the people that we serve, and we do not forget that. The significant and important and positive initiatives that the Minister of Finance announced today are directed towards the people of the Northwest Territories, the public. In order to secure those initiatives and to make sure we have the money to pay for them, to lever the money, we require the cooperation and, in some cases, the lending of these monies from the bankers that the Minister of Finance met with today.

Page 263

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 63-13(5): Assistance to Former Grollier Hall Students

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time will be directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, before I returned back to Yellowknife for this session, in the community of Inuvik, a meeting was held by a group concerned with the Grollier Hall residential school. I am wondering if the Minister received any information from the meeting that was held and some of the concerns raised. I would like to know if the Minister of Health has received anything and what kind of response that this government will have to try and work with the group that is trying to help out surviving students of Grollier Hall. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 63-13(5): Assistance to Former Grollier Hall Students

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the meeting organized by the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services' Board was held last week. Representatives of the victims' group were there, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the GNWT through Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Justice. Also the federal government through Department of Indian and Northern Affairs had representation. The Roman Catholic Church and, of course, the regional health and social services' board as I indicated. I do not have the outcome of discussions of the meeting at hand with me. I know, from a GNWT perspective, ourselves, the Department of Justice and Department of Education, Culture and Employment are working together in trying to develop some support mechanisms to provide the necessary support for the victims, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 63-13(5): Assistance to Former Grollier Hall Students

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister inform us if this government, although they are working on working together with a number of other departments; do we have a policy or does the Department of Health and Social Services have a policy to deal with such things as residential school, things that have happened? It is not the first in the history of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 63-13(5): Assistance to Former Grollier Hall Students

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not certain if we have an actual policy to cover these types of situations. I know they are serious situations and we are in the process of, as I indicated, as a government coordinating a response and coordinating some supports that we feel will be able to assist the individuals involved, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 63-13(5): Assistance to Former Grollier Hall Students

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us, not that this government is working on something to assist individuals, but will this government work with the group, Grollier Hall Residential School Planning Circle, work with them in achieving some form of a healing process for the individuals affected? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 63-13(5): Assistance to Former Grollier Hall Students

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we most definitely will. As I indicated, they have been a part of the preliminary discussions with representation

across, not just our government but the federal government as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 64-13(5): Keewatin Regional Health Board Appointment

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, prior to Christmas I asked the question of the Minister as to why Mr. Gordon Main of Arviat was not officially approved as a board member for the local health board, regional health board. The Minister indicated that, I believe, on the 2nd of December that it was going through the Cabinet for discussion or approval. Mr. Speaker, as a result, some 50 days later, Mr. Main still has not been approved by the Minister's office, and as such, can attend the meetings of the regional health board but is not a voting member. I would like to ask the Minister why is it taking this length of time to approve Mr. Main in this position. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 64-13(5): Keewatin Regional Health Board Appointment

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not certain today if Mr. Main has been appointed or not. I know there was a whole back log of appointments due to go through. I will commit to checking on that today and getting back to the Member as soon as possible tomorrow. Thank you.

Page 264

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 64-13(5): Keewatin Regional Health Board Appointment

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that there had been a number of appointments recently. I recall that in the Baffin, within a week or so, they appointed a chair person. I believe recently also in Rankin Inlet, there has been an appointment to the board, a local person. I believe recently, also in Rankin Inlet there has been an appointment to the board, a local person and once again, I would ask the Minister, is it normal for it to take approximately four months for an appointment of this nature to take place? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 64-13(5): Keewatin Regional Health Board Appointment

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is not normal for an appointment to take that long. As I indicated, if it is stuck or something has happened, I apologize for the delay in the appointment of Mr. Main and I will find out exactly what the status is. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 64-13(5): Keewatin Regional Health Board Appointment

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister commit to a timeframe, so that possibly in the next week, he could confirm whether or not Mr. Main will be appointed or not? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 64-13(5): Keewatin Regional Health Board Appointment

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is in the process I have committed to having Mr. Main appointed if he is the designated representative of the community. It is just a matter of finding out where the

documentation is where it got stuck in the system or misplaced and making sure that it is processed and followed through, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 64-13(5): Keewatin Regional Health Board Appointment

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the Minister's answers, I am looking for a timeframe. Can he confirm that within the next ten days or prior to the next health board meeting that Mr. Main and the Hamlet of Arviat will know whether he has been approved or not? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 64-13(5): Keewatin Regional Health Board Appointment

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe I told the honourable Member that I would find out and advise him tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 65-13(5): Mackenzie Delta Health Concerns

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. It is regarding the whole issue of health care in the Mackenzie Delta; regarding the concerns that I have heard from several people, leaders, chiefs, elders to the type of service and care that they are presently being given, especially where there is an instance where they are misdiagnosed and in regard to the large cases of cancer that seems to be in the region where people are told that they have ulcers or they have pneumonia and the next thing they know, they have full blown cancer. I think the concern that the region has is because there is such a large turnover of doctors and nurses between the time of visits of the

doctors that every time they go there, they have to see a different doctor who gives them a different prescription or basically, they do not understand each other because of the cultural differences. My question to the Minister is, with all of these concerns in relation to the health care system in my region, what is the avenue for people to raise these concerns in feeling that they have been mistreated or misdiagnosed in regard to health care? I think health care is something that you should be able to believe in and have a trust in, where you feel that when you go there that something will be done or basically, your problem will be dealt with. I think if this is the case, we are finding out that there is a lot of concerns in people's minds, are we getting the health care that we deserve? My question to the Minister is, what is his department going to do to ensure that these concerns of the people are going to be dealt with?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 65-13(5): Mackenzie Delta Health Concerns

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, concerns are raised either, carbon copied to myself or directly to myself or to any senior management staff and we follow up on those issues to make sure that the appropriate and adequate measures have taken place. I think, I spoke before on this issue in respect to the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board which delivers the programs and services. If there are problems, they can go to the board, the senior staff or through the trustees or through the chair. There are different avenues, of course. MLAs, as the Member has

Page 265

indicated, received complaints at various times, as well. I can assure the Member that all concerns are followed up on to make sure that the best and appropriate action has taken place, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 65-13(5): Mackenzie Delta Health Concerns

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dealing with the whole avenue of concerns and basically the process that they are being dealt with, for myself, as the Member of the Mackenzie Delta, who has been elected to represent the constituency of the Mackenzie Delta and raise issues on behalf of the Mackenzie Delta; how serious are these statements made in this House taken by his department? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 65-13(5): Mackenzie Delta Health Concerns

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can assure the honourable Member that all concerns brought forward, whether it is in this House or not, are taken seriously by my officials and by myself and followed up on. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 65-13(5): Mackenzie Delta Health Concerns

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to issues that have been raised in this House, there have been several petitions tabled in this House in regard to health issues in the Mackenzie Delta. There have been several written questions that have been raised in the House in regard to the Mackenzie Delta. Can the Minister assure me that these have all been dealt with in a fair and equitable manner and exactly when can all these matters be concluded with or a file report on exactly how those issues have been dealt with?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I heard three questions, Mr. Ng. Just to remind the Member from Mackenzie Delta that he also used up his final supplementary. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 65-13(5): Mackenzie Delta Health Concerns

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in following with rules of this House, all petitions and written questions are responded to within the rules of this House and are responded to accordingly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 66-13(5): Airport Road Stop Signs

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I missed the shrimp today, and as you know, Mr. Speaker, we got into the Members' lounge yesterday and we also missed the shrimp there. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, my question is to Mr. Antoine, Minister responsible for Transportation. I wonder if the Minister can give us some background on how the decision to install the stop signs along the airport road was initiated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 66-13(5): Airport Road Stop Signs

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the airport in Yellowknife, there is a service road that is on the airport area that runs parallel to Highway 3 which is a public road and also it is the main public access that goes to the airport. The service road is for the use of the airport operations and business. It is not really there intended to be a public road because there is also, again, there is Highway 3 which is the main public access to the airport. We have two routes into the airport, but the one in question is the public service road on the airport property which the department has seen over the last five years that there were eight collisions that happened on this service road with property damages to the vehicles, as well as there were a number of less serious traffic incidents on this road. Fortunately, there has been no injuries in terms of these minor accidents or major accidents.

With the increase of activity at the airport, which the honourable Member mentioned, there is also increase in traffic on the service road and to go by the department's mandate having safety in the Department of Transportation, then the department

looked at this situation and decided to put stop signs on this access road rather than putting speed bumps on there. This decision was made in October of 1997, to put three stop signs on this service road to slow down the higher speed public traffic that was going through there very rapidly. There is also a mix of traffic of the slower moving service and utility vehicles which are just baggage cargo, carts, fuel trucks, maintenance equipment that were also using the service road and it was potentially a very hazardous condition there. So as a result, the department had decided to put these stop signs there to improve the safety standards there. Now, the department is satisfied that we have improved the safety of the local airport traffic using the service road and at the same time we have encouraged the higher speed traffic to use Highway 3 access to the airport which is intended to be used by the public. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 66-13(5): Airport Road Stop Signs

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that information, there was lots of it there. He has told us that it was intended for the business owners, and I am just wondering what consultation there was with the business owners along that route? The owners that I have talked to have informed me that they had not been consulted. Was

Page 266

there some type of consultation with the owners as to whether this was beneficial to them or has the department just decided that this will be good for the business owners along that route? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 66-13(5): Airport Road Stop Signs

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department has been looking at improving the safety on that service road which is on the airport property

and for the benefit of the business owners that no serious accidents happen on there because of the increase of the economic development at the airport. The department had decided that the best solution would be to put these stop signs in. I have to check with the department to see if there was any type of consultation with the stakeholders along that service road. I do not know, in detail, exactly how that came about. I will have to get back to the Member on that part of the question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 66-13(5): Airport Road Stop Signs

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister told us earlier that they had in the last five years, I believe, eight accidents along that stretch of road. There were no fatalities. On the Mackenzie Highway, we have had fatalities. We have had accidents all over the place and we do not stick stops signs up there. We would get RCMP or law enforcement to initiate some procedure to ensure that people do slow down by monitoring it. Did the Minister consider some type of measure like that, rather than putting up stop signs for solving the problem for speed by using something that was totally unnecessary? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 66-13(5): Airport Road Stop Signs

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it is necessary to make sure that there are safety measures put in place on the airport property, which the service road is on. There is also a main road into the airport which is Highway 3 where the people wanting to rush to the airport, they could use that route which is intended to be, but the service road is for use of the slower moving vehicles that service the airport. If you mix slower moving, huge vehicles with faster vehicles; you know we have a hazardous situation. So, I think there is a need to put some safety measures on that service road. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 66-13(5): Airport Road Stop Signs

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister informed this House that he was not sure whether consultation had taken place with the owners of the property and the businesses along at the airport strip. Will the Minister consider if he finds out that there has not been consultation taken place; will he instruct his officials to receive that input from the business owners along that route, and if they find out that the signs are detrimental to their business and they do not wish to have them there; will the Minister, after that input, if it is negative towards the signs, consider removing them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 66-13(5): Airport Road Stop Signs

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the increased activity at the airport, the potential for some major accidents to happen along that service road is increasing. The mandate of this department is to make sure that the public transportation areas are in a safe transportation way so that has to be taken into consideration as well. Yes, I will check with my department to see whether there was consultation done with the people and the businesses that are along the service road, and I will get back to the Member as to whether there was consultation done or not. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 67-13(5): Nursing Requirements in Clyde River

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister for Health and Social Services, the Honourable Mr. Ng. Mr. Speaker, as we all know

health related matters are becoming an issue in the Northwest Territories today, especially in small communities like Clyde River, Broughton or Pangnirtung and a lot of other communities in the Baffin region. A lot of times the nurses are working almost 24 hours a day. The community of Clyde River had asked me if I could get one extra nursing position and also one extra interpreter position for Clyde River. I had written a letter to the Minister of Health and Social Services in this matter and the Minister has not replied or responded. Can the Minister tell me what is he going to do about it? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 67-13(5): Nursing Requirements in Clyde River

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the deployment of health care professionals within communities is at the prerogative of the regional health and social services board in this case the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board, and I will convey to them the issue that the honourable Member has brought forward if we have not already responded in that fashion and have them take a

Page 267

look at the resource needs of those communities, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco

Question 68-13(5): Process Following Health Board Reviews

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as some Members have mentioned earlier today concerning health care issues, I guess it is the topic of conversation that has been going on for quite a while and in this House I have raised several questions on this matter before. A couple of months ago, there was a cursory review done by the Department of Health on the status of the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board and also on the Keewatin

Regional Health and Social Services Board. Some things have changed in the last couple of weeks with the recent resignations and the resignations in the Baffin region. I am wondering now, what is the next step from the Department of Health and Social Services on these matters?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 68-13(5): Process Following Health Board Reviews

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you know the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board has an interim chair there, Mr. Patterson, and an interim CEO, Mr. MacRury. They are evaluating some of the proposals that the past board and administration were contemplating changes in respect to some of the shift of their services from Montreal to Ottawa. The plan is to continue in following up with the review that was done in trying to analyze the merits of whether or not to proceed with some of those changes to their delivery of services, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 68-13(5): Process Following Health Board Reviews

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for being very cooperative in a very difficult portfolio. Indeed, the appointment of the CEO and of the chair were done very expediently. Mr. Speaker, in my question I also asked about the Keewatin Health Board and the status now of the health care facilities in that region of the territories. So, I am wondering if the Minister could give us an update on what is happening right now in that area? There have been some concerns and the Minister did attend a meeting there last week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 68-13(5): Process
Following Health Board Reviews

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, specifically to that facility, the honourable Member raises questions on - as you know, the regional birthright development corporations are involved in some of the work in conjunction and partnership with the regional health and social services board and in conjunction with the GNWT to look at the possibilities of private/public partnerships in respect to a couple of those facilities and work continues to progress. The private/public partnerships were recently approved by Cabinet and we are proceeding to put together, through the Financial Management Board Secretariat, some criteria surrounding accessing funds to proceed with some projects under that initiative. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 68-13(5): Process
Following Health Board Reviews

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand that a meeting was held this past weekend as Mr. Ng alluded to, concerning the P3, the public partnership. I am wondering if the Minister, at this time, could update the House in conjunction with the construction of the facilities in Iqaluit, in Inuvik with the federal contributions that have been identified if there has been notification from the department on where those federal funds are?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 68-13(5): Process
Following Health Board Reviews

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot report any further progress in respect to that, except for the fact that negotiations between GNWT officials and Health and Welfare Canada officials continue in trying to reach a final figure in resolving the issue of federal contributions towards immediate 1988 health transfer agreements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 68-13(5): Process
Following Health Board Reviews

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the concern here, of course, would be that, indeed, the more contributions from the federal government and grants that we can get, then the less financing we will have to do and thus the exposure to longer term interest and loans to the taxpayer. So, I am wondering when the Minister will be able to inform this House of where the floor is on the federal contributions so that we would have a better understanding going into the negotiations with the private/public partnerships that will be facilitating the development of those health care facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 68-13(5): Process
Following Health Board Reviews

Page 268

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would anticipate that within the next two or three months that there would be a resolution to the issue of the amount, and just as importantly, the flow of that amount over future years so that we could put some certainty to the exact issue the honourable Member raises about defraying some of the capital costs of certain facilities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes

Question 69-13(5): Attendance at Post-Budget
Address Meeting

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance regarding the meeting that took place with the Minister and the bankers and the business people. Could the Minister tell us who was present at that meeting?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 69-13(5): Attendance at Post-Budget Address Meeting

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes. Mr. Speaker. I had invited the banks up here in an effort to, as I said earlier and perhaps in a more highly emotional charged tone, as part of my overall strategy of trying to reassure the investment community that this was a good place to do business. As part of the bankers' trips, who were here at my invitation, we were giving them in-depth technical briefings, today, all day, this morning. I asked them if they would be willing to attend the budget speech, which they did, and I wanted to get the initial reaction to the budget and, two, we had selected a cross section of business communities, people like Mr. Harper from Iqaluit, Mr. Walker from Yellowknife, Mr. Chang, et cetera, to have an exchange between the bankers and these kinds of people who invest in this company to see if the policies that we were proposing were the kind of policies that they would support. We were extremely fortunate that we were able to get the senior vice-presidents from all the major banks in Canada to be with us today, and they will be on their way to BHP tomorrow and then they will depart home. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 69-13(5): Attendance at Post-Budget Address Meeting

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I detect that this was by invitation only; however, I was concerned with the transparency of it. Apparently the MLAs were not allowed into the meeting. I am wondering if the Minister could address that?

MR. SPEAKER:

I did not hear any question, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Were those present at the meeting there by invitation only?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 69-13(5): Attendance at Post-Budget Address Meeting

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do not know how the subject has got to the point it has. I am sort of at a loss, quite frankly. At a complete loss, and if I have offended anybody by not being in the Great Hall when I was trying to, on behalf of the constituency of the north, on behalf of this government, to convince the banks that this is a good place to invest, I apologize. It was not by invitation. It was just a continuing discussion with respect to the technical briefings that we have been giving the banks in an effort to persuade them, and they are listening to us right now, in an effort to persuade them to continue to invest in this country and help us build our infrastructure. Now, I do not know what I did wrong, but if I have done something wrong, I will say again, I apologize, but I thought the exercise was to show some maturity, some stability and to welcome them. It was not an MLA/Legislative Assembly thing. It was a technical exercise. That is all, nothing else.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 69-13(5): Attendance at Post-Budget Address Meeting

MR. OOTES:

Thank you. No doubt the public/private partnerships were discussed, but my question is, were the NWT Construction Association and NWT Teachers' Association, and the various unions invited to this meeting? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 69-13(5): Attendance at Post-Budget Address Meeting

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I am glad somebody has a sense of humour in this House. This just arrived to me in an envelope. No, they were not, Mr.

Speaker; but I do want to assure my honourable colleague for the last two weeks I have done nothing but talk to the NWT Construction Association, the NWT Chamber Commerce, Alternatives North and any other of the organizations that wish to talk to me with respect to budget initiatives. This was an initiative and still is, unless this conversation carries on, to reassure the banks that this was a good place to invest and I certainly appreciate whoever sent me this, the sense of humour, that this subject should be dealt with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 69-13(5): Attendance at Post-Budget Address Meeting

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could indicate if he will meet with the other organizations that may have an interest in this whole subject of public/private partnerships on a fairly immediate basis? Thank you.

Page 269

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 69-13(5): Attendance at Post-Budget Address Meeting

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, perhaps my honourable colleague has a hearing problem, because I think I just said I already did. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 70-13(5): Minister's Attendance at Reception

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am hesitant to wade in on this subject that we are asking about right now, but to put things into a little bit of perspective, could I just preamble my question by telling the Finance Minister that this was his day? He was the man of the hour.

We invited the public to a public reception. People who do not have the ready access to him that we as Ordinary Members have come and joined us. I think the budget was balanced. It is a celebration. It was done in partnership with the Ordinary Members so I would liken this to an analogy where there is a wedding and the receiving line, the groom was missing and we have to tell them, we have to tell the guests that he has gone to a technical briefing on how the marriage is going to go.

--Applause/Laughter

I guess my concern is that this is a happy day. This is a celebration. We have balanced the budget, and I am saddened if there are any hard feelings or anybody is offended; but the next time we do something like this, could I ask the Minister of Finance if he would be kind enough to grace us with his presence at a public reception? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 70-13(5): Minister's Attendance at Reception

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yeah, sure, absolutely.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In consideration for time, I would like to ask to extend question period until I finish my questions.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Steen, would you rephrase your question to seek unanimous consent to extend question period?

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to extend question period.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Nunakput is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Steen.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Steen. Oral questions.

Question 71-13(5): Departmental Intervention Policy

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, considering the amount of concern that is being expressed by the Members other than myself, with the problems with the health board in the Keewatin in particular and considering the different service in other regions as well, my question is directed to the Minister of Health, Mr. Ng. If the department has a policy in place whereby they step in if there are concerns being expressed in regard to how health boards are being run or operated at which point in time does the department step in? Is there a policy on that?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 71-13(5): Departmental Intervention Policy

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, there is not a policy per se. As circumstances have shown over the past couple of years, as Members of this House have noted, various boards with different ties have gotten into difficult circumstances in some of their management, possibly, and some of the trusteeship of the board in some of the ways that they have tried to make changes to the way the boards deliver programs on behalf of their constituents. As you know, our government is committed to empowerment, trying to pass on as much responsibility as we can to the local or regional level. I think it is a difficult balance, I have said in the past, in giving out the authority and trying to intervene if you feel the need is there, as a government, if we think things are not going the way that it should be. So, no, there is no policy, but certainly circumstances over the past six months to a year to a couple of years since we have actively been involved in the empowerment initiative causes me, certainly, to become more aware of the needs to set some certain parameters in place that would cause us, I guess, at certain points to initiate actions possibly more aggressively with some of the boards as deemed necessary. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr Steen.

Supplementary To Question 71-13(5): Departmental Intervention Policy

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In consideration of the answer given, would the Minister not consider discussing a policy with the social envelope? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 71-13(5): Departmental Intervention Policy

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would certainly be receptive to debating the issues and merits of developing some form of policy, as I indicated. You know, it is a complex issue in respect to some of the programs and services. It is complex when you try to balance out community empowerment and delivery of services through the

Page 270

Department of Health and Social Services, if you were to go too far one way or the other. It is certainly something, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, I would certainly be willing to debate or to discuss with all Members of this House at any given time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 72-13(5): Potential Impact of a Pay Equity Resolution

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I can have a little preamble, Mr. Speaker, on today's budget. I think the Finance Minister has been very creative in providing something for all peoples in the territories and all segments in the economy. I also believe he has balanced out and been up front on some of the negative things, and I will speak to more about this later. There are a couple that I would like to question the Minister on presently. He had noted in his

remarks earlier on regarding concerns he had as to pay equity and I certainly share his concerns. We have asked the public in the territories to tighten their belt for the last two years. How much of an impact does the Minister think that this pay equity issue will have on the future abilities of the government to work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister may respond, if he wishes. Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 72-13(5): Potential Impact of a Pay Equity Resolution

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, it is difficult to sort of quantify the overall impact of pay equity on the fiscal framework of the government. I did say in the speech, and I will say again, that we want to genuinely negotiate an arrangement. This Finance Minister, if I can take some credit, has decided to put it on the table. I challenge the parties to come to the table and try to reach an accommodation that will satisfy the staff and those members of the opposite gender, try to satisfy them, that we come to some arrangement where there is an affordable settlement. I mean, there are all kinds of numbers that have been thrown out there, and I really do not want to add to or inflame an already difficult negotiation. I just hope that the organized labour, the UNW, recognizes that I am serious in my desire to negotiate a deal and understand, and I am sure they do, the fiscal realities that we are still facing even though we have balanced the budget. I hope, and I am optimistic that we can come to an arrangement by the end of March, and as it gets closer to what we think may be an appropriate settlement, and I am not trying to avoid the issue, then I would be prepared then to say this is how I think it will impact on our both short and long term fiscal condition. But I could tell you that if it is not affordable and I said it clearly, I do not want anybody to be under any other illusion, there is no ability right now to pay any large settlement on pay equity. Simply none. If there was, it might be different, but there is not. It will mean job loss and it will mean program reductions. I am not prepared to move forward on that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 72-13(5): Potential Impact of a Pay Equity Resolution

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister for that explanation. The Minister has identified that they are presently in negotiations which he anticipates should be wrapped up by the end of March. I would also anticipate that the following year's budget should be approved before those negotiations are complete. Does the Minister have any secondary plan in place for negative results coming out of these negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 72-13(5): Potential Impact of a Pay Equity Resolution

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, if my honourable colleague asked me if there was a contingency plan, I think I was pretty clear. If the settlement is not affordable, if it is imposed upon us and not negotiated, then my preference is to negotiate. I have said that consistently. Again, I stress, I called the parties to the table. This is a ten year dispute. This government and my colleagues in this government want to settle this issue. The only contingency factor that is not affordable is we look from within, and I do not think there is the political will to do that right now. I hope all parties will come to the table recognizing that and that there is a sincere gesture on the Cabinet's part or on my part, as the Minister responsible, to make a negotiated settlement that is affordable. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 73-13(5): Public/Private Partnership Initiative

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance in regard to his address today, specifically to the P3 initiative which I think is a very good one. It has a lot of potential. One of the key issues, of course, is the need for checks and balances so that in fact this is a sustainable program and that we do not incur such huge costs in the first

few years that we cannot afford to continue it because we have incurred too many lease payments or mortgage payments. Could the Minister indicate and speak to the issue of whether the checks and balances necessary to make this program viable are near completion and will be in effect before we move ahead on projects? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 73-13(5): Public/Private Partnership Initiative

HON. JOHN TODD:

How I appreciate my honourable colleague in the great debate, asking me that important question. I would like to acknowledge here, now, that the P3 actually came about partially because of my honourable colleague from Fort Smith's discussions with me many, many months ago, so maybe we should just give him a brief round of applause.

--Applause

Page 271

HON. JOHN TODD:

Of course, I would like to say that publicly while I am here. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, it is certainly my intent, or our intent, to develop policies and direction on the P3 that ensure that two key things came out of the discussions we had with some of the advocacy groups out there. There is a clear concern, as Mr. Picco frequently talks about, and rightly so, of transparency. The need for transparency. The need for people to see where it is going, why it is going there, et cetera. We need to address that, and we are working hard to address that. Perhaps, the more important one that came up time and time again, whether it was in discussions with the NWT Construction Association, the NWT Chamber of Commerce or other groups, was the affordability issue. I am very much aware of that, and we are working very hard right now to put the policies and the regulations in place that are going to do that. I could, for my colleague's benefit, perhaps table tomorrow the P3 policy and some of the regulations that Mr. Coles, who was the consultant on the issue, has given us as long as he understands that we were still making adjustments to them. It is certainly our intent to do exactly as my honourable colleague has suggested. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 73-13(5): Public/Private Partnership Initiative

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An olive branch is not quite as nice as shrimp or char, but it is much appreciated, and I would like to thank the Minister for his kind words. In regard to the P3, specifically under the Accelerated Home Ownership Program, could the Minister indicate, is the \$40 to \$50 million that he is talking about here, part of the P3 initiative? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 73-13(5): Public/Private Partnership Initiative

HON. JOHN TODD:

The principles of P3 are somewhat similar but the \$40 to 50 million that is being suggested are additional dollars that we feel is an affordable issue. We need to get some houses on the deck, as they say, and we will have to go out and borrow this money and demonstrate that we have the capability to repay it and that is what we are intending to do. It is over and above the projection that we were talking about. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 73-13(5): Public/Private Partnership Initiative

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just so I am clear. With the P3, we talk about \$100 million a year for the next two years, which will be, my basic math tells me, \$200 million. The 40 to 50 would be in addition to that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 73-13(5): Public/Private Partnership Initiative

HON. JOHN TODD:

That is correct, Mr. Speaker. I should say that the uptake, of course, would really determine to some extent, to what degree we will be investing in P3 this year and the other years. I used the \$100 million as a bench mark, if you want, for the maximum exposure at this time. We are working extremely hard right now, to get the right kind of fiscal, accurate figures to reassure not only this House, myself, as the Finance Minister, my colleagues that this is not going to lead us down the path to greater fiscal expenditures that we cannot afford in the future. I am very much aware how the question is being asked by a number of groups on the affordability. I hope to demonstrate in the not too distant future that the checks and balances will be there. Basically, the checks and balances will fundamentally be there anyway with respect to the House and committees because everything has to come back down once it goes through the FMB and there will be an opportunity for direct participation by all Members of this House on any P3 projects that may be coming forward. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 73-13(5): Public/Private Partnership Initiative

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate whether it was necessary or is necessary to have the concurrence of the Interim Commissioner for these longer term commitments? Has that been obtained? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 73-13(5): Public/Private Partnership Initiative

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I think that is a valid question and there is no question that any fiscal expenditures above and beyond April 1, 1999 will have to be signed off

somewhere with the Interim Commissioner. Two things, as I said in my speech earlier today, one of the main things we have been working on with the Interim Commissioner right now is a protocol agreement on the contractual arrangements this government has that go beyond 1999. The banking world wants to know if you are building a building and you have a 15-year lease and it is renewed in 1998 and goes onto the year 2010 or something, there has to be some commitment there on behalf of the future government. The Interim Commissioner has the mandate responsibility to do that. We are working with him. We are close to an arrangement. I am confident we will reach it soon. I am optimistic that in my discussions with Mr. Anawak that he will see the merit in the new initiatives that we are bringing forward. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 74-13(5): Diamond Task Force Update

Page 272

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Minister Kakfwi, Minister of RWED, in regard to diamonds. Sometime ago the territorial government initiated meetings with the federal Minister of Finance and the federal Minister of DIAND. The results of those meetings were the formation of a diamond task force. I wonder if the Minister could bring us up-to-date as to what is happening on the part of that task force in regard to advancing a diamond sorting, valuating facility here in Yellowknife? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 74-13(5): Diamond Task Force Update

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the task force had a meeting planned for the latter part of, I believe January 9th in Ottawa, which is the time the ice storm had just occurred in the Ottawa/Montreal area. Consequently, the members of the task force, I believe, were not able to convene a meeting. In any case, we have expressed our disappointment with the federal Ministers because

the task force has had at least from the federal side, the federal officials who were assigned to this task force appeared to have had their full brakes on as far as trying to expedite any business that should have taken place by the task force. We had originally agreed with Minister Martin, Minister Jane Stewart, to have an interim report to Ministers, that is Minister Todd and myself, to Minister Martin and Stewart by the middle of December, an initial report from this task force. Unfortunately, some of the federal officials decided that it was not a high priority and found reasons to reschedule meetings and basically slowed down any attempts to convene with some quick successive meetings to carry on the business that the task force was set up to do. It has been disappointing. We had hoped that some value will come of the task force and the reasons that we originally asked for it to be set up. The deputy minister, Joe Handley, is on tour with the Premier right now in South America and will be back on Saturday. I expect to meet with him to discuss the merits of continuing with this task force and exactly how much resources we should put to it, considering that federal members of the task force have indicated they thought an interim report of the task force was not possible at least until mid-March at the earliest. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 74-13(5): Diamond Task Force Update

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Ministers had an opportunity to meet with the Minister of Northern Affairs, yesterday, and I wonder if the Minister was able to put forward to the Minister, the disappointment of this government in the task force if they emphasized the need to address this issue on an urgent basis? Time is shooting away on us and we have to address this very, very quickly. I wonder if the Minister could tell us whether he was able to be emphatic with the Minister about this issue? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 74-13(5): Diamond Task Force Update

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Cabinet met with Minister Jane Stewart, yesterday morning. We had a very brief time. Diamonds, specifically was not on the agenda. We used up the time available to us to speak about the Royal Commission report, the issue of division, the difficulties and some of the issues outstanding in regard to division. I spoke generically about the importance of the mining industry, the mining sector to the economy of the north and to Yellowknife, in particular. I suggested to her that as Minister responsible for Minerals, Lands and Waters in the Northwest Territories that she has a direct obligation to do something specifically, to assist existing operating mines to continue to operate during what we hope is a short-term drop in the price of gold. We did not engage in the issue of diamonds since it is contentious and the federal government has yet to make decisions. Actually, nothing much has changed since the last couple of months and so we have decided not to raise the issue since it would not be of any immediate consequence to us. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 74-13(5): Diamond Task Force Update

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Yellowknife Diamond Task Force had difficulty arranging a meeting with the Minister on this particular subject. They encountered extreme difficulties in trying to arrange some time with her. I am not sure whether they succeeded. This is an important issue to us all here in the north. She is in charge of resource development. Would the Minister tell us if he and his counterparts will seek another meeting with his federal counterparts to address this important issue? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 74-13(5): Diamond Task Force Update

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to continue working as much as we can with the federal government and with BHP to ensure that two things happen. One, a valuation facility, a sorting facility be located off-site in one of the communities in the Northwest Territories. We hope to resolve that one way or the other and get a clear definitive answer within the next month. Secondly, we have indicated that we would like to be assured that the private sector should have assurances that they can have access to rough diamonds here in the Northwest Territories which give us an opportunity to look at and explore the options of developing diamond cutting and the manufacturing industry. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Page 273

Supplementary To Question 74-13(5): Diamond Task Force Update

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems that there is a tremendously good cooperative process between the Minister and industry. I wonder if he could tell us, and he mentioned that he hopes to have some indication of what will happen by month end, I believe, could he tell us if he will address this whole issue with the Minister of Northern Affairs in the next short while, say the next 60 days? Because there is another diamond mine coming on stream, we need to address this issue, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 74-13(5): Diamond Task Force Update

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, all the different options for continued lobbying and action will be considered by this government. The Premier will be back, as I say, on Saturday. It is my intention to request that Cabinet consider a course of action over the next month or so that should conclude our efforts of over the last two years to come up with some definite answers to the two objectives that I outlined earlier. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 75-13(5): Transparency in Public/Private Partnerships

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are on the P3, public partnership. Earlier Mr. Todd spoke about transparency and in his budget address he said that over the next two years \$100 million each year could be dedicated to the Public Partnership Agreement under the P3. Someone has to pay for that \$200 million that would be in the form of lease payments over 20 years or whatever. It is not free money. On this transparent process, I wonder what type of regulations will be in place so that the perception, as it were, of the public, that it is a clear process. In the transparency process would we be using the current capital five-year projections plan? Like in my community where we have turned down recreation complexes and that, because there was no money, would the community expect those types of things to be in this P3 Public Partnership Program? I am asking the Minister about transparency and how will the projects be picked, how will they come forward? Will it be in that five-year capital planning process that we have now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 75-13(5): Transparency in Public/Private Partnerships

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, we are aware it will cost us money. That is understood. Secondly, my honourable colleague is correct that we will use the process that is currently in place, the five year capital plan. That is currently being re-examined right now. I would like to assure him that the whole process will be undertaken and he will have full opportunity to participate as a member of the committees. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 75-13(5): Transparency in Public/Private Partnerships

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, each May of the fiscal year, the Premier, Mr. Morin, sends out a letter to each town, municipality and hamlet asking them to prioritize their capital requirements for that year. I expect that, indeed, under this five-year capital planning process that the Minister of Finance, the Premier or someone would be asking their communities should they go ahead with this, what programs they would pick. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 75-13(5): Transparency in Public/Private Partnerships

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I recognize what my honourable colleague is saying, I think we have a five-year capital plan. A number of things were taken out of it, delayed or put back, et cetera. Our intent, quite frankly, is to try and get some of the stuff on the ground this year. What we are saying is we are re-examining the current capital plan, the priorities that the municipalities have placed on the projects. The deputies are doing that as we speak so I do not think, I could be wrong, but I do not think there would be a requirement to go back out to the communities. I think we have enough data there and enough direction from municipalities, et cetera, to be able to bring forward to committee and to FMB what we think is doable based upon some of the criteria that we will set for the P3. As I said earlier to an earlier question from my honourable colleague from Thebacha, I am prepared to table those policy regulations as quickly as I can in this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 75-13(5): Transparency in Public/Private Partnerships

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to see that the Minister for Transparency would indeed look at bringing that forward into the House in March. I am wondering with that allocation within the framework under the P3, with the projects

that he had identified and that the Legislative Assembly had identified; would they actually come into the House, too? We are not approving capital monies because this is the P3 partnership. Would the projects be identified and tabled by Mr. Todd so that the public at large could see that it's not a pork barrelling exercise but it is indeed a transparent process and that things are being done as according to plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Page 274

Further Return To Question 75-13(5): Transparency in Public/Private Partnerships

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been called many things but never the Minister of Transparency. Anyway, I am the Minister of Finance, just for clarity purposes for my honourable colleague who frequently has memory lapses. Mr. Speaker, I will have to check with Mr. Voytilla. Right now, we are racing to take a look at the five-year plan. The priorities have been placed upon the plans, community by community. We are taking a look at what we think are the priority projects that we can bring back into the mix. It is my desire and the desire of my Cabinet colleagues to get some of this stuff on the ground. I better check to make sure whether or not this will come back to the House for debate or whether we would, in fact, come back to committee and seek approval. I would prefer to defer a complete answer to that question, but we will undertake to have it for my honourable colleague tomorrow or Monday. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 75-13(5): Transparency in Public/Private Partnerships

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary on the P3 is that in other jurisdictions where the P3 have been used you have set limits on the projects. For example, the bridge in PEI was a P3 because it was a large project. Will the Minister be looking at setting a limit on the projects that will be under this, like a \$10

million project, a \$20 million project, or will it be, for example, a million dollar project? Will there be a limit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 75-13(5): Transparency in Public/Private Partnerships

HON. JOHN TODD:

If there was to be a limit, I am sure my honourable colleague would want it to be \$25 million because I think that is what the Iqaluit/Nunavut hospital facility requires. Again, I stress to him that we are still working out all the details. We are taking a look at the affordability side of things. My inclination is to give as much maximum flexibility as possible. I am not one that likes to put restraints or conditions attached to things. The two conditions that are attached to this policy from a financial perspective is transparency and affordability. The rest of it, as I have said, I am prepared to share with my colleague and the Members of this House as soon as we get the i's dotted and the t's crossed on how we are going to proceed in terms of the regulations and the policies related to public and private partnerships. I will do that as quickly as I can, but I do not, at this time, see a project by project limitation. Who knows, as we move forward in the next three or four days to finalize how we are going to proceed with these projects. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 76-13(5): Lottery Licencing Policy

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. It is with regard to the lottery licencing and the selling of Nevada pull tickets. The group or agency I am talking about is the Midway Lake Music Festival who have a fundraising draw and have bingos every Saturday. Part of their process is that they sell Nevadas. They have been told that they are not allowed to sell Nevadas at the radio station where the bingos are being held. It seems like there is a question regarding policy. I would like to ask the Minister if she can tell me if there is a possibility of some flexibility with regard to the policy, especially these days with the

cutbacks to institutions such as music festivals and agencies like that who have to raise their own funds. This is possibly one of the only means they have. It is a process that communities have, for years, been using to raise money. Now they are being told they cannot. Is there a possibility for some flexibility in the policy?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 76-13(5): Lottery Licencing Policy

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first time I have been made aware of this situation in the community regarding the lottery licencing at the radio station. I will get back to the Member as soon as I can and I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 77-13(5): Temporary Shelter Provision

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Housing. Earlier today I made a statement regarding the situation of the many people who are homeless in the Northwest Territories and the fact that there are some people in my constituency who are rather unfortunate themselves, but yet are providing shelter for many of the homeless in Yellowknife. What I would like to know is, does the Housing Corporation presently provide facilities for overnight shelters, places where people can drop in and sleep without going through a long drawn-out process?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 77-13(5): Temporary Shelter Provision

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The short answer is no. The Housing Corporation, through the housing associations, deals mainly with social housing which requires tenants or would-be tenants to actually reside in a community, apply for housing, be approved and pay a certain amount of rent. The other part to the housing that the Housing Corporation deals with is in home ownership. I would refer the question to Mr. Dent who has the responsibility for income support and who deals with issues like the homeless. Thank you.

Page 275

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Income Support Program is generally responsible for providing emergency shelter to those who are in need. For instance, in Yellowknife we have contracts with the Salvation Army and the Yellowknife Women's Shelter to provide emergency shelter in town. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 77-13(5): Temporary Shelter Provision

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people like the Salvation Army have a policy that if a person is drinking they will not be allowed into their emergency shelter. Considering the fact that most of the homeless have social problems, including alcohol and drug abuse, they would not be able to participate in this program. I would like to know if the Minister would be willing to consider financing shelters where people can drop in and actually just come in and have a place to sleep considering the fact that there are many, many people, in particular, the larger centres such as Yellowknife, Rankin Inlet or wherever?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 77-13(5): Temporary Shelter Provision

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would certainly be prepared to discuss the social needs of the people in our communities at any time with other Members or advocacy groups. I am prepared to take a look at any proposal. Mr. Speaker, I do not think that we are going to be in a position to start providing flop houses. I think what this government is saying is that people have to bear some responsibility for their own care. That is what the Income Support Program is designed to do. That is to assist people who are having a short-term problem. Mr. Speaker, I am certainly prepared to discuss the issue.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 78-13(5): Post-Division Lease Responsibilities

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Finance Minister, who I will be directing my question to, has introduced the P3, private/public/partnership. He has talked about it before and today he elaborated in his budget address. The Minister in the House today has stated that he hopes to get some of these projects that may come forward started this construction year. Although I find a lot of support for this from various segments of my community, there are some concerns raised. I would ask the Finance Minister if he could address one of them. The responsibilities for the payments of leases on projects that will be built this summer, depending on whether they are east or west as community requirements dictate, the payments and responsibilities for those payments, how will they be attributed come division? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 78-13(5): Post-Division Lease Responsibilities

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let us take the example of the Iqaluit/Inuvik hospitals. Large projects. One is 25 to 30, that is what I am told, somewhere in that range. Let us assume that we get agreement that is the route we are going to take. We are going to do P3 and everything goes the way it is supposed to go. The

billing for that project probably will not get completed until after 1999. If this government has to enter into a fiscal arrangement or a long-term lease so that the financier for the project gets the money from an eastern perspective, it will require the commitment of the Interim Commissioner, clearly, who will then have and then take fiscal responsibility. In effect, the dollar costs to this government, because it will not be until after 1999, will be minimal. There may be some front-end capital given to that organization same as Inuvik. Each of these P3 are going to be worked out slightly differently, I suspect. It would be the responsibility of this government if we want to get those two projects up and running to commit to a process and a lease arrangement that ensures that they can get the fiscal long-term debt that is required to fund these. The Inuvik one, for example, will be signed off by this government and a future western government will take responsibility for that and its costing. The eastern one will have to be signed off by this government and by the Interim Commissioner because of the unique characteristics of his role and his Legislative mandate that he has through an Order-in-Council. I suppose, in the end, the long term costs associated with those two projects, and I am just using them as an example, would be, in my opinion, in the hands of the two new future governments. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 78-13(5): Post-Division Lease Responsibilities

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that straightforward and clear answer from the Minister of Finance. He has talked about two potential projects, one east-west, and anticipating that those projects would not be finished until after April 1, 1999, what would happen to projects that will be completed in this construction season say before December this year? What would happen to the financial responsibilities of those projects east and west? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 78-13(5): Post-Division Lease Responsibilities

HON. JOHN TODD:

Right. Well, I mean, the fiscal responsibility until such time as I divide the territories would be an obligation of this government and we would have to build that into our expenditure base. I am saying to you that again, I

Page 276

am just talking on my feet, as they would say. It would be for a short period of time until such time as the new governments move forward and undertake those responsibilities that we have entered into. That is why I say that. Particularly in the eastern Arctic, I suspect that we will be if our protocol agreement gets signed off, as I am optimistic it will. It will provide us the mechanism, the process for the Interim Commissioner to sign off with myself or other Ministers on the long-term obligations beyond April 1, 1999. So, if we had a project like a medical health centre in Arviat that was completed in the fall of 1998, we would have the fiscal responsibility from the fall of 1998 until March 31, 1999. That is how I would see it happening and at the end of the day, I suspect, most of these public/private partnerships really and I said it in my speech, it is a policy that is not a short-term policy. It is a policy that is set in place for future governments, et cetera, and I think that is where most of it will end up. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 78-13(5): Post-Division Lease Responsibilities

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister, in that hypothetical example of an Arviat health centre, just for greater clarity, is the Minister saying that after April 1, 1999 the responsibility for payments to that hypothetical situation would be the responsibility of the Nunavut Government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 78-13(5): Post-Division Lease Responsibilities

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. That is the wonderful thing about this project. In fact, I suspect most of them, while they may be under construction and require some kind of government paper to secure the financing, ultimately, the long-term fiscal costs will lie with the western and Nunavut governments. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 79-13(5): Plans for Sheltering the Homeless

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Housing. It is in relation to the homeless in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, earlier I had asked the Minister a question and he referred me to the Minister responsible for Income Support. While I appreciate that, my question is not for that particular Minister. The Minister in charge of housing is in charge of social housing and providing housing for the homeless is certainly social housing in my estimation, perhaps not in the traditional sense. So, what I would like to know is, whether the Minister responsible for Housing would be willing to look at some type of a cost-shared program with the Minister responsible for ECE so that we can provide what the Minister of ECE termed as flop houses. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 79-13(5): Plans for Sheltering the Homeless

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, the Housing Corporation through the housing associations fund homes, what we call social housing units, particularly for those with lower incomes. I think we presently operate over 5,000 units and as I have said over and over again here in the House, there is a requirement for more, and because of the state of our resources, we have had to go the route of financing new private homes in order to flush out, so to speak, those who can operate their own homes, therefore, opening up the ones that they have been using to those that are more needy. That program is still there.

The individuals that the Member refers to are certainly eligible for this program, but it does require them to apply to the housing association and so forth and take some responsibility for rent payment and a portion of the utilities. The issue of dealing with the people who are homeless but will not apply for social housing units for one reason or another, which I understand the Member is referring to, the assistance for those people falls under the responsibility of Education, Culture and Employment and the Income Support Program. The Housing Corporation does get involved in some cases, for example, here in Yellowknife for years we were intimately involved with the funding of the housing units for the YWCA and have recently completed a deal with the YWCA and others to make units available here in Yellowknife. As I understand it, the Salvation Army here is underutilized. There are reasons for that, and the Member stated one of them which is a policy that if you smell of liquor or have been drinking, you will not be allowed in the shelter. There are good reasons for that, but that does not negate the fact that you still have a homeless person. So, I will work with the Member, with all Members, with the ECE Minister to try to come up with a solution for this difficult problem.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 80-13(5): Funding for Public/Private Partnerships

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just following up on some questions on that P3 which I am in support of. If projects are identified to the capital plan like the two hospitals, I think everyone can see the necessity for those. Mr. Speaker, if we go to \$100 million in the private partnerships, that means there will be about \$24 million in lease payments paid out by this government. So that has to come out of somewhere. We do not have any new money, so it has to come out of programs or something else. If we go to \$100 million this year and we do \$100 million next year, where will those lease payments come from? Do you have to cut programs to come up with this money? How will that be worked out? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 80-13(5): Funding for Public/Private Partnerships

HON. JOHN TODD:

There will be a line in the budget, more than likely, Mr. Speaker, that will show the interest payments that we have to pay on the P3 which come out of general revenues.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 80-13(5): Funding for Public/Private Partnerships

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, if it is shown as a budget item on your balance sheet and it comes out of general revenues, that would be less money to be given to programs and services. I wonder if all departments would be aware of that, what the percentage would be? I mean, as an example, we have talked about trying to find extra money today for low-income, needy and housing and so on. So, I wonder where this money is going to come from? Reallocated money? Thank you, Mr. Henry.

MR. SPEAKER:

I would ask the Member perhaps to rephrase his question because you are going into the details of the budget which are not in front of the House yet. If you wish to ask general questions on the replies to the budget that the Minister just did, then you may. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will rephrase the question and ask the Minister, does he foresee any problems in finding the lease payments within the O and M amounts that are available to this government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 80-13(5): Funding for Public/Private Partnerships

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I do not.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, replies to budget address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of standing and special committees. Item 14, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 15, tabling of documents. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 15: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 15-13(5): Northwest Territories Budget Address, 1998-99

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Northwest Territories Budget Address 1998-99. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Tabled Document 16-13(5): Communique from Nunavut Leaders Summit, Iqaluit, January 12 to 14, 1998

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Communique from Nunavut Leaders Summit, Iqaluit, January 12-14, 1998.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 16, notices of motion. Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 16: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Motion 10-13(5): Referral of Tabled Document 15-13(5) Budget Speech to Committee of the Whole

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, January 26, 1998, I will move the following motion. Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, the Tabled Document 15-13(5) entitled Budget Address, be moved into committee of the whole for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Item 17, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 18, motions. Item 19, first reading of bills. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 19: FIRST READING OF BILLS

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with the first reading of Bill 8, Appropriation Act 1998-99.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Bill 8. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Dent, you have unanimous consent.

BILL 8-13(5): Appropriation Act, 1998-99

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South that Bill 8, Appropriation Act 1998-99 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Bill 8 has had first reading. Item 19, first reading of bills. Item 20, second reading of bills. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 20: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 8: Appropriation Act, 1998-99

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South that Bill 8, Appropriation Act 1998-99 be read for the second time.

This bill authorizes the Government of the Northwest Territories to make operations and maintenance expenditures

Page 278

and capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1999.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Your motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 8 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to the committee of the whole. Item 20, second reading of bills. Item 21, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters, Bill 8. With Mr. Ningark in the chair.

ITEM 21: 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. Under consideration of the committee of the whole, do we wish to proceed with Bill 8. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, that we report progress?

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Do you wish to make a motion to report progress?

MR. OOTES:

I move that we report progress, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion to report progress is not debatable. Signify please if you support the motion. Opposed? The motion is carried. I will rise and report progress.

ITEM 22: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. Item 22, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee 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:

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Roland. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 23, third reading of bills. Item 24, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 24: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there is a meeting of the Ordinary Members' Caucus at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Orders of the day for Friday, January 23, 1998:

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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act

- Bill 9, Loan Authorization Act, 1998-99

19. Second Reading of Bills

20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, January 23, 1998, at 10:00 a.m.

--ADJOURNMENT