



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1998

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Good afternoon. Orders of the day. Mrs. Groenewegen, point of order.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a point of order. In my reply to the Budget Address on Friday I quoted from Hansard a comment made by the Premier in response to questions being raised about the health care situation in the Keewatin. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently neglected to report that the Premier in a comment returning to the same subject as a result of being questioned about his first comment on the next day and I quote, "what I meant to say is that I believe the Minister has the health issue in the Keewatin under control." I do apologize Mr. Speaker, to the honourable Premier for failing to mention the subsequent clarification of his comments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. I appreciate the comments for correction, but it is still not a point of order. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 34-13(5): Collective Bargaining Position and Pay Equity Proposal

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, in the 1998 Budget Address I presented to this House on January 22nd, I stated that our net financial position could be impacted by the results of the current negotiations with the Union of Northern Workers regarding pay equity.

At the time, mediation talks on pay equity were underway and collective bargaining had not yet commenced. Therefore, it was inappropriate for me to elaborate on the government's position on this issue.

Since the Budget Address, I have been asked many times by Members what the impact pay equity and the current negotiations with the Union of Northern Workers may have on our budget.

Members stated this information is a key part of our deliberations on the 1998-99 budget. Members and others have expressed concern that programs and services essential to the well-being of the people may have to be reduced to pay more money to resolve the pay equity issues.

Mr. Speaker, mediation talks on pay equity have ended, and this morning at the commencement of collective bargaining our negotiators briefed the UNW on our position.

The budget this government has set for the resolution of this issue and for current negotiations is \$ 40 million.

This represents a global budget for dealing with working conditions, salary increases, retroactive provisions for pay equity and a new job evaluation system for the UNW, as well as non-unionized employee groups.

Mr. Speaker, after 10 long years, this government is committed to resolving the issue of pay equity, in order to set the stage for implementation of a bias-free job evaluation system, and a fiscally solid start for the two new governments.

Our priority - as well as our challenge - is to arrive at a solution that protects jobs, ensures service levels are maintained and keeps the current fiscal course as a basis for growth and prosperity.

As a Legislature, we must work together to ensure we achieve that objective. We want to and must work in partnership with the union for a made-in-the-north solution for northerners. Waiting for a tribunal to decide for us compromises our common efforts. The pay equity proposal the government is putting forward is based on an extensive review by the Hay Group, a nationally respected organization in the area of job evaluation.

The Hay Job Evaluation System provides the framework to ensure men and women are paid on the basis of equal pay for work of equal value. To that end, the bias-free approach to job evaluation assesses existing jobs on know how, problem-

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solving, accountability and working conditions. Using this system ensures there is a common reference for both the GNWT and the UNW to reach a financial settlement on retroactivity which achieves pay equity.

Mr. Speaker, \$40 million is all this government, and hence the people of the Northwest Territories, can afford to re-allocate without causing severe service disruption and further downsizing. The GNWT is open to negotiating how this money is applied to the various issues at negotiations.

We believe this offer to be reasonable, in that it represents three percent of overall government spending and 10 percent of the current annual costs of the public service.

I sincerely hope the UNW will consult with and present a negotiated settlement to its members that reflects and supports the efforts of all government employees, and the people of the Northwest Territories, in their collective efforts to date to eliminate the deficit.

This is a unique opportunity to settle other outstanding labour-related issues and build a partnership to protect jobs and create a working environment in the public service that can and will result in enhanced services to the people of the Northwest Territories after years of restraint.

Mr. Speaker, let me say once again, this government is committed to resolving the issue of pay equity. It is the right thing to do. We have an obligation to our employees and to the people of the north to work with the union to resolve this issue.

We now have a positive and workable proposal on the table to do just that.

The Members of this House have worked hard to date to balance our budget and work to eliminate our deficit. We must now face this current challenge with the same spirit and commitment to the future of the north, and at the same time get money into the hands of northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Minister's Statement 35-13(5): Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Meeting

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently attended a meeting of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment in Saint John's, Newfoundland. As a result of this meeting, an accord aimed at improving cooperation and increasing environmental protection across Canada was ratified.

This accord, Mr. Speaker, envisions governments working in cooperation to achieve the highest level of environmental quality possible. Under the accord, each government will retain its current legislative authority but will come together as partners to achieve the highest level of environmental quality for all Canadians. Each government will be responsible for specific actions and is required to report publicly on its results.

In addition to the accord, a number of sub-agreements dealing with environmental assessment, inspection activities and Canada-wide standards on air, water and soil quality were also signed.

The council has directed officials to develop further sub-agreements in the areas of enforcement, monitoring, reporting, research and development and environmental emergencies. It is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that officials have also been asked to develop strategies which will ensure involvement from all stakeholders, including present and future land claimant groups.

The Northwest Territories covers approximately one-third of Canada's land mass, and the majority of our residents have a deep respect for and dependency on the land. The north is often referred to as the last

frontier with many unique species of plant and animal life. I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that this cooperative accord will strengthen and enhance environmental management in the north, helping to ensure that land, water and air quality are maintained.

I am also pleased to announce, Mr. Speaker, that the NWT has assumed a term of chairmanship for the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. The first meeting in the north will be in June. I look forward to introducing my fellow Environment Ministers to the NWT and our unique environmental challenges. Mahsi cho.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Ministers' statements. Mr. Ng.

Minister's Statement 36-13(5): White Cane Week

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize that February 1st to 7th is White Cane Week.

Visually impaired individuals often play an important role in our communities and our lives. Our supportive and positive attitude towards blindness and visual impairment in the Northwest Territories will help them continue to do so.

We must encourage blind and sighted northerners to work closely together - in the workplace, in our communities - to discover ways it can be possible for the visually impaired to do the things they wish to do. The CNIB has done a tremendous amount in this area and I would like to recognize and commend them for their work.

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Mr. Speaker, I urge each Member of this House to take a moment and think about the visually impaired and to reaffirm our personal commitment to support and encourage northerners facing special challenges. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 37-13(5): Apprenticeship Week: February 2-6, 1998

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. While we often speak in this House on the issues relating to the northern employment, I would like to take a moment today to recognize a group of individuals that make up an important part of our workforce, that is, the skilled trades people who help build our communities and help drive our economy.

Journey persons and apprentices can be found in every community and constituency in the Northwest Territories, and their work can be seen and appreciated in our hospitals, schools, airports, community halls and offices.

With thousands of men and women currently working in the trades, it is truly a northern success story of which we should all feel some pride.

To recognize the ongoing success of the Northwest Territories Apprenticeship Program, I am pleased to announce that today marks the beginning of the first ever Apprenticeship Week in the Northwest Territories.

As part of that, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment will recognize these dedicated individuals in many ways, including open houses scheduled at many regional career centres where regional honour rolls will be on display and a contest sponsored by BHP, for high school students across the territories.

During this week, we should note that much of the credit for the ongoing, and indeed, growing success of the Apprenticeship Program is due to the unique working relationship between the employers and apprentices.

Employers are responsible for 80 percent of all the training an apprentice receives; and therefore, organizations and companies play an important role, not only in helping these people pursue productive careers but in allowing them to earn a salary while doing so.

So, in addition to recognizing the trades people themselves, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those employers, past and present, who have contributed to the success of the Apprenticeship Program, and encourage them to continue to invest in and support the development of these skilled workers.

The demand for skilled trades people will only increase as we all work together to build a stronger economy in the north.

I am pleased we are now marking this week to increase awareness and appreciation of apprentices and as a result, perhaps open the doors for more young people to make productive career choices. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Ms. Groenewegen.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 129-13(5): Timber Permit Application

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak today to the highly publicized issue of timber permits for a company in my riding. Pattersons has been in the sawmill business for over 30 years. As well as employing many people in the area over the years, they employ three generations of their own family. It has become increasingly difficult for them to identify timber stands in the area because of interest by other parties in the timber business. While it is my hope that issues regarding the identification of sustainable inventories and boundaries can be resolved to everyone's satisfaction, I also hope that there will continue to be a place for people, such as the Pattersons, who have invested most of their life in the north. I believe that there is a great potential for the lumber industry in the Deh Cho and the South Slave and hopefully, enough timber to satisfy everyone's aspirations to be involved in a sustainable and responsible harvest of this renewable resource. I would like to thank today, the Minister, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi for his attention to this industry, for his respect for the environment and his department's professional handling of the concerns expressed by all parties as indicated in a CBC interview with his deputy minister, Joe Handley, this morning and also by his staff, Mr. Bob McLeod, in attendance in the Kakisa today to work through the issues of all concerned parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Enuaraq.

Member's Statement 130-13(5): Unmarked Graves in Southern Canada

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I will be speaking in Inuktitut. I have a statement today regarding something that has happened in previous years, some things

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that have gone on in the Baffin region during the 1950s and 1960s. During the late '50s and early '60s, a lot of Inuit people were shipped down to southern institutions by boat or ship to Montreal and Toronto to go to sanatoriums for TB treatment.

Mr. Speaker, for those people who went to southern sanatoriums and passed away while they were still in the hospitals, when they did pass away, all they did was mark the graveyards. Some graves were unmarked in the cemeteries. There are a lot of people who were impacted by this situation. There are some constituents of mine that have come to me to ask for assistance to see if they can locate their parents' graves in southern Canada. They have been wanting to locate their graves so they can visit their families. I am appealing to the government of the Northwest Territories to see if they can assist these people who have concerns regarding unmarked graves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

--Applause.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 131-13(5): Comments Made on Behalf of Constituents

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the health and welfare of my constituents of Arviat and Baker Lake are very important to me. I am their voice. It is my job to speak loud and clear so I can look after their best interests. To be harangued in this House for speaking loudly, for asking tough questions or for telling it the way it is, is simply silly. What is at stake here are important issues like the state of health care

in the Keewatin or discussions on the Lahm Ridge Tower and how these deals are reached.

Sometimes my line of questioning may cause some Ministers some discomfort and they may appear to be on the defensive. This is not my intent, Mr. Speaker. I simply want the facts. If they are defensive or evasive, then one must ask why. Without tough questions, there will be no answers as to why things are the way they are. We need checks and balances to ensure our government is above board, honest and fair. Constructive debate helps to enlighten and open up the political process. This is what we call accountability. If I did not speak up about what I considered third world conditions regarding the Keewatin health care, we would still be continuing in a downward spiral toward an even bigger crisis.

Mr. Speaker, in reference to third world conditions or serious matters, I would refer to the following points: it is when one is down to the last IV bag, when you have an overworked nurse who is exhausted after working 24 hours a day over the Christmas holidays servicing 1,600 people; this is when the chief medical doctor for the region quits in disgust, after blasting the health board for mismanaging their health care system; when the board chair quits and the CEO is fired in the space of one week; and when we suffer from a large or major shortage of nurses and doctors in the Keewatin. Mr. Speaker, these conditions may be fine for some people, but they are not fine for the people I represent.

I will not sit back and blindly ignore the problems and put my constituents at risk. Mr. Speaker, I do not stand here hoping to see my face in the newspaper or on television. That is for the whim of the editors. I stand here to raise issues that concern the people I represent. It is not me who is in the spotlight. It is rather the issues.

I bring issues forward because the people I represent are concerned and they expect me to speak out. My job as MLA is to get problems fixed, to look after my constituents, to point out injustices, to get answers and action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 132-13(5): Passing of Lucy Francis

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House of the passing of Ms. Lucy Francis of Fort McPherson on Friday, January 30, 1998. Lucy was 99 years old. Lucy was born to the late Chief Julius and Maggie Salu on January 1, 1899 on the Blackstone River Valley in the Yukon Territory.

A few may know Chief Julius was the last hereditary chief of the Tetlit Gwich'in and the first elected chief. He was also the signatory to Treaty 11 and a well respected elder and leader.

Lucy married Brian Frances in the early 1920s and they had nine children, six of whom are still alive today. They also looked after Catherine Semple of Aklavik for many years. Lucy and her husband raised their family in a traditional way and lived for many years at Tl'oondih which is now the site of the Tl'oondih Healing Camp. Lucy has 24 grandchildren, 43 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren. The funeral is scheduled for Thursday in Fort McPherson. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 133-13(5): Breast Cancer Screening Program

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased last week to hear the Health Minister say in this House he considers a breast cancer screening program to be a core health service for northern women.

As the Members of this House know, it has long been my position that the Department of Health and Social Services should be aggressively pursuing a breast screening program. An important component of this is a mobile mammography unit. While I appreciate the Health Minister's change of

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opinion on this very important issue, I still feel too many issues with pan-territorial concerns are being

handed over the regional health boards. I am not alone in this opinion.

In a recent newspaper article, both the president of the NWT Medical Association, Dr. David Butcher, and the president of the NWT Registered Nurses Association, Miss Nell Vrolyk, agreed the issue of screening for breast cancer was too important to be left up to the regional health boards. Their voices are added to those for the NWT Working Group on Breast Cancer Screening, who identified a need for a full pan-territorial screening program in their report issued last month. Doctors and nurses agreed that if breast screening is left up to regional health boards, there will be no standardization of service, which will leave northern women vulnerable or well served, depending upon where in the north they lived. This is simply not acceptable, Mr. Speaker. Breast cancer screening is part of a basic national health package, yet the majority of NWT residents are unable to access it.

The government receives funding from Ottawa to provide health care services. As such, it is governed by the conditions set out in the Canada Health Act. Three of the five guiding principals are universality, accessibility and comprehensiveness. Leaving breast cancer screening up to regional health boards violates all of these three principals. The north remains the only jurisdiction in Canada without a comprehensive screening program. Northern women are entitled to expect their government to take their health issues extremely seriously. They are entitled by law to have access to the same medically required and recognized health services as their southern neighbours. It is necessary this government meet the obligations under law. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 134-13(5): Legislative Assembly Curling Funspiel

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like today to speak of a momentous occasion. Last weekend when we had the annual Legislative's curling bonspiel, it was very well attended by Members and staff. We did have a few awards that were given out, Mr. Speaker.

This year we gave out little pigs to those who did not make it over the hog line and the person who got the most pigs for hogging was Nicole Camphaug. Honourable mention has to go to Floyd Roland who got the most last year and did not get any this year, so he really improved. The most enthusiastic curler, Mr. Speaker, was Sheila MacPherson and I must add, she must have been very enthusiastic because it usually goes to the most enthusiastic team, but she won it by herself. The best wipe-outs was Sarah Kay. I understand she slipped twice. She wiped out twice in one game but they were not the only casualties, Mr. Speaker. I already had to go for a massage and probably will have to go see my chiropractor as well. Mr. Speaker, the sharp shooter of the entire occasion was Mr. Todd, who I understand drew to the button.

--Applause

The bad hair curler was Mr. Picco, who had to comb his hair continuously for some reason. The loudest, Mr. Speaker, I do not know how they came to this, they found the person, Mr. Hamilton as the loudest.

We also had winners of three different events. In the C event, again, Mr. Hamilton came out on top. His team won the C event. On his team were Ed Picco, Nicole Camphaug and Dorothy Zoe.

The winner of the B event was Brian Armstrong's team. On his team was Rob Moore, Sarah Kay and Ronna Bremer.

The winner in the A event, Mr. Speaker, and won this trophy here, was the Roy Erasmus' team.

--Laughter

We had David Krutko, Mr. Ng and Sheila MacPherson curling on our team. I would really like to thank the organizers, Vera Raschke, Cheryl Voytilla, Ronna Bremer and Brian Armstrong. They did a wonderful job.

Finally, but not lastly of course, I would like to thank Mr. Seamus Henry who, very kindly once again, paid for the ice time and was our sponsor. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 135-13(5): Inmate Rehabilitation Programs

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories leads the country in incarceration rates for crime. It would seem sometimes this government is predisposed to incarceration but not to rehabilitation of our inmates.

Mr. Speaker, in questioning in this House by this Member, it was learned that our correctional facilities are overcrowded, which could result in serious problems. However, overcrowding and a seemingly lack of measures taken to rehabilitate our inmates is my concern here today.

I have received information that worries me. When an individual is continually incarcerated, what measures are taken to diagnose, then act on, the diagnosis by the Department of Justice?

Does the department contact the referral agencies or does the department revisit the client and their assessment? Recently, a constituent receiving treatment here in Yellowknife had been turned down for further treatment and help at the addiction offices because of seemingly inappropriate reasons. Does the Department of Justice review the rehabilitation programs for effectiveness and if they are even applicable? Many of the

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more serious crimes committed by Nunavut residents mean they are incarcerated here at YCC in Yellowknife. Does the department have a plan after 1999, how we will deal with the 40 or so Nunavut residents incarcerated here? Should we be planning a new correctional centre with federal help?

Mr. Speaker, the whole area surrounding incarceration, rehabilitation and locations of same needs to be addressed. Later today I will be asking the Minister for Justice questions on these matters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 136-13(5): Capital Funding Allocations

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking in Inuktitut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk

about funding that is put aside for capital funding with infrastructure going into the communities, when Nunavut comes. This funding is available for constructing buildings in the communities and for water and sewage, roads and other essentials in the community. When this funding is not properly used or when work is put behind or deferred to another time - we are all aware that in the government we often talk about fiscal restraints - my concern is where we could get more funding for these projects? I will be referring to a question to the Minister of MACA regarding this issue later on today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 137-13(5): Public/Private Partnerships Initiative

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, some time ago the Minister of Finance introduced a new budget for the ensuing year. One of the issues of that budget was a new initiative called a P3 initiative. I spoke in favour of that initiative at that time, Mr. Speaker I still support it. I also raised some concerns about the P3 initiative and the concerns that I mainly had was the P3 initiative brought clarity to any programs or initiatives that it took in the way of ventures. I still have those concerns, and I think they are highlighted even more, Mr. Speaker, with the present controversy both in this House and in the media, regarding the Lahm Ridge Tower lease extension which is normally an everyday practice. I hope the present lease demonstrates to the government how important the issue of clarity will be when we get into these P3 initiatives, and I will be following them with great interest to ensure that clarity exists. I will later on today, be asking questions of the Minister on the P3 initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Ms. Maureen Johnson, the regional vice-president for the UNW from Fort Smith.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize two people in the gallery from Inuvik, the mayor, Mr. George Roach. He is also the president of the NWT Association of Municipalities. As well, I would like to recognize Mr. Dave Kaufman, the RVP for the UNW in Inuvik.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I would also like to welcome in the gallery today the RVP from the Baffin region for UNW, Mr. Doug Workman, who is a long time northern educator and also Ms Barbie Lee. I think Barbie here today in the Legislature, is the sister-in-law of Duff Spence, who works here in the Legislative Assembly, and she is also from Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 167-13(5): Lahm Ridge Tower Lease Agreement

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for anyone in Cabinet who would like to answer further questions on the extension of the lease and the subsequent sale of the Lahm Ridge

Tower. I will leave it open. Mr. Speaker, did the deputy minister...

MR. SPEAKER:

Mrs. Groenewegen, could you direct your question to the appropriate Minister, please.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Premier, as Mr. Antoine is the newly appointed Minister responsible for this department. Did the deputy minister of Public Works and Services receive any guidance, input or direction from Cabinet or any Minister of this government relative to the signing of the extension of the leases on the Lahm Ridge Tower? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 167-13(5): Lahm Ridge Tower Lease Agreement

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Antoine, as the Minister of DPW, is well informed on this issue and he can handle the question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, there was no direction given to the deputy minister when he was negotiating this lease extension. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 167-13(5): Lahm Ridge Tower Lease Agreement

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we already know, through documents made available to the public by this government who the lease is with, how many years it is for, the negotiated conditions of the

extension, the cost of the space, the department that it accommodates, will the Minister agree to table in this House, not a standard lease form but the actual lease including the extension addendum? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr Antoine.

Further Return To Question 167-13(5): Lahm Ridge Tower Lease Agreement

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not think I could table their agreement. I think it is an agreement between the company and the government. I do not think, at this point in time, I could table such a document. If I do that, I will have to do it for everybody else that has a contract with the government. I do not think I could do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 167-13(5): Lahm Ridge Tower Lease Agreement

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My third question is, several items related to the renovations and costs were listed as negotiated conditions of the lease extension. Was it for public clarification, Mr. Speaker, also a condition of the lease extensions that the property be sold to the newly incorporated northern-owned company owned by Mr. Mrdjenovich and Mr. Bailey? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 167-13(5): Lahm Ridge Tower Lease Agreement

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

I do not know, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the items that were listed in the chronology of events in regard to the specific improvements in the lease of a better price in renovating the air circulation system and so

forth. The ventilation system was part of the lease negotiations that we thought would be good to put into the chronology of events, to try to be as transparent as we can on the types of general discussions and negotiations that took place that makes this lease extension favourable for us and also cost us less than what we had originally and saves money for the government in the long run. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 167-13(5): Lahm Ridge Tower Lease Agreement

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure I understood the answer to the question but I will proceed. If this was not a condition of the extension to sell the property to Mr. Mrdjenovich and Mr. Bailey, why was a lease extension registered on the same day, almost simultaneously, with the new mortgage and the assignment of the lease to the numbered company owned by Mr. Mrdjenovich and Mr. Bailey, even though the chronology shows that the new owners did not take ownership and receipt of the rent payment until November 1, 1997? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 167-13(5): Lahm Ridge Tower Lease Agreement

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am told that during the negotiations of finalizing the lease extension, as well as the assignment from the previous owners to the new owners, that they estimated the turnover time to be October 1st.. However, because of some internal arrangements that were not finalized, the actual turnover did happen on November 1st. There were some internal problems that were not taken into consideration at the time. The actual first payment to the new company was November 1st and that is when it was finalized. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Question 168-13(5): Relocation of Grave Sites

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Last year, March 5, 1997, I asked a question to the Minister regarding the 30 graves that were relocated to another area. The Minister agreed to work with the community on how this would be paid for. I would like to get an update as to what has happened with this item since I last talked to her. Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Return To Question 168-13(5): Relocation of Grave Sites

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to apologize to the MLA for not getting back to him right away, but I will talk to my officials and get an update and get back to him later on today. Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 169-13(5): Location of TB Victims' Remains

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng. Mr. Speaker, as I was saying earlier today, during my Member's statement, in the 1950s there were patients that were brought to the south for medical attention. Some of the patients graves have not been brought back or identified. Has the Minister been informed about this issue? Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 169-13(5): Location of TB Victims' Remains

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware that NWT residents were brought down south, in certain circumstances, for their medical treatment up until 1988, prior to this government having responsibility for health and social services. There were unfortunate cases of individuals passing away while they were down south and not being brought back to the Northwest Territories. I am aware of the situations such as that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 169-13(5): Location of TB Victims' Remains

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Minister for his response. I have a further question as to what his department has done, or what does his department plan to do regarding the bodies that have been buried in the cemeteries that remain down south? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 169-13(5): Location of TB Victims' Remains

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have done very little in respect to the issue the honourable Member raised in his opening statement about identifying where individuals may be except, I can say, on a case-by-case basis. If individuals are needing assistance to try to locate a deceased relative, then we will try to identify, certainly where the service was provided, where their medical treatment was provided and try to assist them. There has not been a lot of requests in those kinds of circumstances, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 169-13(5): Location of TB Victims' Remains

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, my thanks to the Minister for his response. I have a further question regarding the relatives and the families of the deceased. The members of the families who may be interested in visiting the cemeteries, would the department provide transportation for the families to visit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends).

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 169-13(5): Location of TB Victims' Remains

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not within any programs of the Department of Health and Social Services which we currently fund through the boards, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 170-13(5): Inmate Rehabilitation Programs

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as for my Member's statement, I would like to follow up on some questions for the Minister of Justice around the area of corrections. Can the Minister inform this House when entering a correctional facility for the first, second or third time or whatever period, are the inmates counselled and given direction and help with rehabilitation programs? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister of Justice, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 170-13(5): Inmate Rehabilitation Programs

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am informed that the process is that once an offender is admitted to the correctional centre their case is reviewed by a case

worker, they are interviewed and assessed and at that point in time it is determined whether a person is eligible or willing to take a program of any sort. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 170-13(5): Inmate Rehabilitation Programs

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MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, does the department have trained clinical psychologists at the correctional facilities to provide ongoing evaluation, referral and rehabilitation help for the inmates?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 170-13(5): Inmate Rehabilitation Programs

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Justice has three positions for clinical psychologists. There is one for the Baffin Correctional Centre, one for the Yellowknife Correctional Centre and one for the southern Mackenzie.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 170-13(5): Inmate Rehabilitation Programs

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, are those clinical psychologist positions staffed at the present time? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 170-13(5): Inmate Rehabilitation Programs

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They were all staffed until the end of last week. The clinical psychologist hired for the Baffin Correctional Centre was relieved of her duties last Friday.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 170-13(5): Inmate Rehabilitation Programs

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, who decides if an inmate is allowed or can continue treatment for addiction or psychological problems? Who decides who gets the treatment or who does not get the treatment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 170-13(5): Inmate Rehabilitation Programs

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are several possibilities. One is after the assessment, an offender must show willingness to take a program and have the concurrence of the case worker. Once that is done, the case worker will go out, either outside the facility to try to get the inmate into a program or get the inmate to take an in-house program, counselling or otherwise. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes

Question 171-13(5): Breast Cancer Screening Programs

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke earlier about the Minister's statement last week on breast cancer and I wonder if the Minister could answer several questions in that regard for me. He stated that they were doing extensive work and that we are addressing this through a variety of prevention initiatives. I wonder if he could tell us, what are the prevention initiatives that the department is doing? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 171-13(5): Breast Cancer Screening Programs

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have the full details on hand. After I had made that statement, I took it out, so I will have to take that question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 172-13(5): Pay Equity Negotiations

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance and it is regarding pay equity. Last week in this House, the issue came up and there was some discussion in a general way. The Minister characterized that the difference between the government's position and the union's is something similar to the Grand Canyon. Today the Minister has put a figure on the table for the government, but there is still no clear sense of scale. Can the Minister indicate, in their opinion or in the opinion of the government, what is the sense of scale, what is the union position that would characterize it as the Grand Canyon to give people a sense of scale as they look at this critical issue?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 172-13(5): Pay Equity Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on the union's position in 1992-93 and our costing of it, it is somewhere in the range of \$175 to \$200 million.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 172-13(5): Pay Equity Negotiations

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister quickly summarize what could possibly contribute to such a Grand Canyon-esque gulf between the government's position and the union's? Just to give us once again, a better sense of scale and to the public. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 172-13(5): Pay Equity Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, the government has been using the Hay Plan form of evaluation for the last 20 years. The union is using the old JEPS and WILLIS system. Our position is, we believe it is dependable. Hay and Associates have been working hard with us to determine the new job evaluation, the cost attached to it and have determined that our position is about \$25 million in retroactivity, \$9 million on ongoing. As I have said, my understanding of it is based on the UNW's position in 1992-93 and their assumption of using another way of calculating pay equity, the dollar value, and I stand to be corrected, is somewhere in the region of \$175 to \$200 million. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 172-13(5): Pay Equity Negotiations

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister elaborate on one of his comments in his prepared statement where he has made the point that one of the goals is to get money into the hands of northerners. Can the Minister give some examples of what that could possibly mean? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 172-13(5): Pay Equity Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a briefing earlier today to the press, we had indicated some categories of jobs based on our analysis and our best judgment. I believe, for example, a nurse who had been in the system, say ten years, which is somewhere around \$18,000 say effective April 1, 1998, counts for retroactivity. I think a data entry clerk would be \$6,000 plus. It is significant, Mr. Speaker. I would sincerely hope at the end of the day, that we will be able to reach an appropriate compromise, as I have said consistently, this government can afford to pay and that we can sustain. We believe our position is both defensible, is sustainable and is affordable. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 172-13(5): Pay Equity Negotiations

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate as well what is the next step. The government has gone public. It had a press conference. It has laid the position on the table. Prior to that the union made a fairly pointed press release dismissing the government's offer. Now we have some numbers. What is the plan now for the government in order to try to move this around or along and ensure in fact, that we reach a settlement that is affordable and does not impact on the needy, the poor, the unemployed and the single mothers and such? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 172-13(5): Pay Equity Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, for clarity purposes, what we did do today, for those who missed the press conference, we said that we felt the affordability issue with this government, with some fairly serious looks at our fiscal position, could probably afford an overall \$40 million pay equity

negotiated settlement. We had indicated in the press conference, \$25 million for retroactivity, \$9 million for the ongoing costs associated with pay equity, and I think somewhere in the region of \$6 million in terms of a framework for negotiating a new collective agreement. My intent over the next little while, hopefully, is that negotiations will continue between the two parties. I think it is incumbent upon myself, my colleagues to advise the people of the territories, the membership and the community at large, that this is what we think we can fundamentally sustain without any serious downsizing or reduction of services to the public. Ultimately, if we cannot reach an agreement through a negotiated settlement, I would hope that if nothing else that the union and membership would take it to the members through some kind of vote. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 173-13(5): Pay Equity Negotiations

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are also for the Finance Minister in the area of the pay equity issue. First of all, I would like to thank the Minister for putting forward a position and his commitment to try and settle this pay equity issue. The Minister had indicated that they are using the Hay Group to arrive at their position. Could the Minister indicate just who the Hay Group is please?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 173-13(5): Pay Equity Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Hay Group or the Hay Associates are a national and international firm who are known professional experts in the pay equity issues that have unfolded across the country. They are active in a number of provincial jurisdictions. They are also working with business, both small and large. In fact, we have been using the Hay Plan process for the last 20 years in this government and they have worked diligently to try to quantify our belief that what we are putting forward is fair and is affordable. I have the confidence of myself and of my deputy, and as I

said, have the credibility across Canada in terms of their professional credentials. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 173-13(5): Pay Equity Negotiations

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicated that several other jurisdictions use their methods. Could the Minister give us some examples of some provinces that perhaps use this?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 173-13(5): Pay Equity Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, as far as I am aware, I think they are very active in Ontario and Manitoba, I believe New Brunswick is certainly one of the Maritime provinces, there may be others. I would be prepared to provide that to my honourable colleague, but I know that they are active in at least three or four provinces in Canada, and of course, both in the small and large private sector. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 173-13(5): Pay Equity Negotiations

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yellowknife has been, I would say, the hardest hit with job cuts in the last little while and we know with division looming there will still be more jobs lost. Will this offer, if it is accepted, result in more job losses in the public service?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 173-13(5): Pay Equity Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important that I be a little cautious in my response. I am fundamentally of the belief that our offer is an affordable one, and one that we can with some serious look at our fiscal framework manage and our offer will not bring about any further downsizing or program cuts to the government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 173-13(5): Pay Equity Negotiations

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister had indicated that this government could afford to reallocate without causing severe service disruption and further downsizing with this offer if it is accepted. What types of things, if we had to go further beyond this, can the Minister indicate how it would affect this government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 173-13(5): Pay Equity Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I have been fairly clear and fairly transparent in this whole process. This government cannot afford any other additional expenditures on the pay equity issue at this time, other than the \$40 million we have put on the table and even that will be difficult enough to achieve, without any further downsizing or program cuts. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 174-13(5): Nunavut Government Infrastructure in Arviat

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Division. Mr. Speaker, I posed some questions a while back regarding the layoff of individuals in my community regarding the construction of housing units in Arviat in order to prepare for division and the jobs that are supposed to be transferred to our community. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding now that the skeleton staff who were left behind are also leaving the job site. My question to the Minister is, at this point in time, there are other sites in Nunavut that have construction projects ongoing, is Arviat the only community that has their staff laid off?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister responsible for Division, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 174-13(5): Nunavut Government Infrastructure in Arviat

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important to point out that this government has no jurisdiction over the infrastructure requirements that are currently built for the Nunavut government. That is an arrangement between the federal government and NTI. However, I did do some investigation because I know it is a concern, an obvious concern to us, my colleague and his constituency. I believe there is, in my understanding in discussions, there are two other projects in Cape Dorset and Spence Bay, I think or Taloyoak. It is important to point out that we have little or no jurisdiction over this issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 174-13(5): Nunavut Government Infrastructure in Arviat

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister realizes how concerned the people are in my communities regarding these layoffs and how important it is that these projects, these housing units and office spaces get finished and completed, so that we can be prepared for 1999.

At this point, who is the contact person? How do we have some input or some contact with the other parties to make sure that we know what is happening, when the construction is going to start again, and if indeed, we are going to be on schedule? The main concern here is, if we do not have the office space and housing units completed, we will not be prepared to house these staff. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Two questions. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 174-13(5): Nunavut Government Infrastructure in Arviat

HON. JOHN TODD:

Again, for clarity purposes, it is important that we have no jurisdiction over this and in some ways I wish we had. I will undertake on behalf of my colleague to communicate with Public Works Canada, who have the project management responsibility, and the Nunavut Construction Company and ask them if they are prepared to give us a full detailed briefing as to why these projects have been closed down, when they intend to bring it back on stream and maybe an update on their projected completion on both the housing and the office facilities, not only in Arviat but right across the 11 communities that are designated for the new decentralized government in April 1, 1999. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 174-13(5): Nunavut Government Infrastructure in Arviat

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with all do respect to the Minister's reply, this is the same answer I got the last time I brought this question up two months ago. Could the Minister tell this House exactly or at least approximately when we might get a reply as to the situation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 174-13(5): Nunavut Government Infrastructure in Arviat

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought I was being fairly straightforward saying it is not within our jurisdiction. I will undertake, I am not obligated to, but I will undertake on behalf of my colleague, to check with Public Works Canada and the Nunavut Construction Company and ask them for a full briefing -- if they are prepared to give it to us -- and an update on when they expect construction to be initiated back in Arviat, Cape Dorset and Pond Inlet. If they can provide me and this government with a revised schedule as to when the construction will be complete, I will only be too happy to provide that to my honourable colleague in the House. As I have said consistently, I wish I could get the answer myself, but it is not within our jurisdiction. I will do that on his behalf. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 175-13(5): Lahm Ridge Tower Lease Arrangement

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works and Services, Honourable Jim Antoine, regarding the Lahm Ridge Tower lease in relation to the \$10 million lease which takes effect from December 1, 1995 and expires November 30, 2005. In regard to the circumstances we find ourselves in, especially in Yellowknife where there is over a 100,000 square feet of vacant office space, I find it alarming how someone was able to make such a sweetheart deal. As we know, the owner made it clear that the government, if they are prepared to exercise an extension option, that he would negotiate terms that would provide some significant cost benefits to this government. It is understood that Public Works knew that the owner was attempting to negotiate the sale of the building at the time. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is can the Minister explain why the Lahm Ridge Tower lease was renewed by this government at the 1995 rate levels when the office vacancy rate in Yellowknife was low and the rent was high?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 175-13(5): Lahm Ridge Tower Lease Arrangement

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Lahm Ridge Tower lease is not a sweetheart deal. Mr. Speaker, the government holds quite a substantial amount of square footage in Yellowknife with about 441,000 square feet. Since 1995, the beginning of this government, with the amount of amalgamation and downsizing that was occurring in the first two years of this government, we had to put together an office plan. We did not have a real firm hold on exactly how much square footage we needed because just until last spring we were still talking about amalgamating Public Works, Housing and so forth. That was shelved as well, so starting last year about January, the Department of Public Works started working on and rationalizing office space that is required in Yellowknife once all the downsizing and amalgamation was done. By July, after the two negotiations with all the different deputy ministers, the department had a fairly good look at what was required, what type of long-term lease was required to be held on, what we should do with our existing buildings and what other office spaces that we needed to look at.

By July, it was determined by the departments and deputy ministers that some of the long-term leases will be required even after the office plan had been realized. One of the long-term leases that was desirable at the point in time was the Lahm Ridge Tower, which the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is in and the Department of Transportation. Both departments were satisfied with the building. In timing, the owners of Lahm Ridge Tower Investments contacted our regional superintendent to request a meeting aimed at coming up with an agreement on the extension of their office lease. The deputy minister then

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instructed the superintendent that we were in a good bargaining position and we did need Lahm Ridge Tower. Therefore, if you are able to negotiate a reasonable arrangement with the owners, namely reducing the utility costs, dealing with the air ventilation system and making general improvements in the building, if you are able to negotiate these items, then perhaps we could have a deal. The superintendent then met with the owners towards the end of July and were able to come out with a basic deal. About the beginning of August, August 1st exactly, the superintendent and the owners signed off the proposed extension provisions based on the

negotiations. They were able to come out with a better deal than what originally existed. I do not think it is a sweetheart deal. It was done through negotiations and it was around that time that it became clear that the owners wished to obtain the extension in order to make it attractive for a potential buyer. Around that point in time, the superintendent and the deputy ministers were aware of this potential sale and the identity of the potential buyers.

There are a lot of coincidences and a lot work that went into this whole deal. As a result of that, there was an agreement by the deputy ministers to sign a lease extension that was a good business case for the transaction. Based on that, the deputy minister was satisfied that it was a good business deal and, therefore, he agreed to sign the lease. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 175-13(5): Lahm Ridge Tower Lease Arrangement

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Anybody that can swing a \$10 million lease, has a heck of a deal. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is regarding the market rent in Yellowknife at the time of the lease, in regard to the occupancy rates in Yellowknife, which was relatively low. It appears that the government could have saved this amount of money by renegotiating the lease or reallocating to another office space. We hear that, presently, the government occupies some 440,000 square feet. The government as the largest tenant in Yellowknife is in the position to negotiate a more cost effective lease. Can the Minister explain why these other cheaper office spaces that he mentioned were not taken into consideration of the savings to this government besides this lease on its own?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 175-13(5): Lahm Ridge Tower Lease Arrangement

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all that was taken into consideration by the department. It became

clear that this Lahm Ridge Tower was needed on an ongoing basis to satisfy the office space that was required by both the Department of Education, Culture and Employment as well as the Department of Transportation. We could have moved them over to a cheaper office space, but the cost to relocate them to another cheaper space would cost money. It is estimated that it would have cost about \$1.4 million and would have meant that there would have been a loss of about \$0.5 million in tenant improvements that had already gone into the Lahm Ridge Tower since 1992. Whenever you move into another office space, all you are getting is a floor and then you have to put in the walls, the carpeting and so forth. All this has to be taken into consideration along with the disadvantage of disrupting the programs and services that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is providing to the public, as well as the Department of Transportation. These are the two departments who are providing a lot of programs and services to the people in the Northwest Territories and by moving them from one, out of the good existing lease, to another cheaper lease would have caused quite a bit of disruption. So all that has been taken into consideration. Overall it is still the opinion of the department that it was a good business deal and I have been briefed and informed by the deputy minister that we did this basically on a good business deal and I still support this decision. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 175-13(5): Lahm Ridge Tower Lease Arrangement

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of the decision made by the deputy minister, did the deputy minister have the authority to sign an almost \$10 million lease and make a commitment for this government which will go beyond division in 1999, and be a burden in regard to the finances of the new western government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 175-13(5): Lahm Ridge Tower Lease Arrangement

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the deputy minister, according to the Financial Administration Act, has the authority to agree to this lease extension. The honourable Member is throwing a \$10 million figure around. It is approximately that amount but it is spread over eight years. On a yearly basis, that is the going rate. The average going rate is about \$25 a square foot. If you could lump it all and say it is a \$10 million deal, well you have to figure out that it is spread over an eight year period. I do not think it is a burden to this government. In fact, I have been told that it is like a \$500,000 savings in utility costs over the life of the lease. They are able to negotiate a better deal in that way, and there are general improvements in the building to make the premises more attractive to the public that we serve and make it more functional for the employees in there. Of course, the air handling systems has always been a problem ever since the government was a tenant in that building. There again, that is a \$200,000 cost that the owners have agreed to replace the air handling system. In the long run, it is a cost saving to this government. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 175-13(5): Lahm Ridge Tower Lease Arrangement

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell this House who the superintendent was? Also he mentioned there were deputy ministers, so I take that to mean there was more than one deputy minister involved in this decision.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 175-13(5): Lahm Ridge Tower Lease Arrangement

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the regional superintendent of Public Works and Services in this region here is Mr. Vince Dixon, who is very capable and very familiar with the office space arrangements in Yellowknife, as well as the deputy minister Ken

Lovely. When I am talking about the deputy ministers, I am talking about the overall general office plan that had been developed since January of last year until about August, throughout the fall here. We occupy 11 buildings in Yellowknife and all the departments are involved in this whole general office plan. All the deputy ministers would have been involved in the discussions in putting together a general office plan for this government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 176-13(5): Funding for Nunavut Infrastructure

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my Member's statement, I am concerned about the Funding for Nunavut Infrastructure. My question is the to Minister of MACA. There was a committee that was struck. Have they had a meeting with the GNWT about the issues I am talking about? Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 176-13(5): Funding for Nunavut Infrastructure

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committees that were supposed to be coming from the federal government, NTI, my officials and Public Works Canada are working very closely as a committee. They have been discussing the issues that we are trying to resolve. Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 176-13(5): Funding for Nunavut Infrastructure

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister assure me or tell the Members of this

House how much money they have spent so far for the infrastructure in the Nunavut region? Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 176-13(5): Funding for Nunavut Infrastructure

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They were going to use \$32.7 million for infrastructure, building roads, educational facilities and offices, the piping services, fire trucks and other facilities. That amount of money going to be used was \$32.7 million, but I do not have any information with me at this time, Mr. Speaker. I am not exactly sure how much we have spent so far, but I will assure the Member that I will give him the information as soon as I can. Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 176-13(5): Funding for Nunavut Infrastructure

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to get some information again. This year, if there has been some money used for the education facility or a school, for instance, if there was a school built in Igloolik, Pangnirtung or any other community, will there be enough money for the other communities? (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 176-13(5): Funding for Nunavut Infrastructure

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The coordination for this Nunavut Incremental Infrastructure is going really well. What we are doing with the schools is just adding on extra classrooms. We are not building brand new schools. The coordination and the partnership, the agreement between NTI, DIAND and

Public Works, we have been working very well with those other groups. The Nunavut Construction Corporation is the body that is in charge of constructing these facilities. That is all I can say today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 177-13(5): Potential Criticism of Public/Private Partnerships Initiative

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd. I think it is fair to say that the Minister is probably aware of the controversial issue surrounding the Lahm Ridge Tower issue, the lease renewal which is normally a standard practice. My question to the Minister is how are you going to ensure that the same

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issues do not bring negative criticism to the P3 initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 177-13(5): Potential Criticism of Public/Private Partnerships Initiative

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, it really depends on how you view the Lahm Ridge Tower. I, for one, as the Finance Minister, view the Lahm Ridge Tower as a good deal for the government because it is saving significantly down the road. If other Members of this House choose to see it differently, that is their choice. On the issue, and it is an extension of an existing lease, not necessarily a new project, I have said clearly on a number of occasions, the number of issues have to be front and centre on the P3 affordability, transparency and to some extent, public accountability. I have indicated and I have tabled in this House some of the guidelines and the principles in which we view the P3 projects unfolding. I have indicated to my colleagues that I am prepared to table all the P3 projects that will unfold, more than likely, through an RFP process, which means it will be a public process, and I have given assurances to the Construction Association particularly, that we will work

out with them some of the concerns they have with respect to RFPs so that there is clearly some transparency. I am optimistic that we will be able to do all of that and meet the requirements that my colleague and others have spoken to and get on with creating some jobs and opportunities for northern based businesses because after all that is what this is all about. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 177-13(5): Potential Criticism of Public/Private Partnerships Initiative

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to hear the Minister reiterate again on the issue of transparency. I think that is important. He has also mentioned that there were some RFPs and that he was going to work with the NWT Construction Association on this matter. This is the first time I have heard this, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister is when are his officials going to be sitting down? Does he have a time committed on when he is going to be sitting down with the NWT Construction Association? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 177-13(5): Potential Criticism of Public/Private Partnerships Initiative

HON. JOHN TODD:

Perhaps I should put a little clarity to the issue. When we were looking at the P3 policy and proposal, I did discuss with a number of groups out there how we could go about doing this to the well-being of northerners and trying to get input as to some of the changes or the direction that we should head. One of the groups we did talk to was the NWT Construction Association. When I indicated to them it would be a public process, but because we are looking for sort of that whole entrepreneurial initiative that comes with an RFP, we would probably go through an RFP system. I think it would be fair to say that they had indicated that they did not have any problems with RFPs provided there was some public disclosure of who the successful bidder is and why the successful bidder was there. We are working closely with them to try to accommodate their needs and to ensure this

whole process and this new policy where we are treading on new ground, gets the public transparency. Apparently it needs to be done in everything that we do in this House. I will make every effort to make sure that happens. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 177-13(5): Potential Criticism of Public/Private Partnerships Initiative

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the question of the NWT Construction Association, I believe they have spoken favourably and they like the potential work that can come from these P3 initiatives. Could the Minister foresee any areas in which the NWT Construction Association could participate with the department in evaluating some of these projects as they come in? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 177-13(5): Potential Criticism of Public/Private Partnerships Initiative

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, it is fine to sit in this House and contemplate about the lack of transparency and everything else. What I have committed to is that this process will be transparent. I believe, in an earlier question last week by Mr. Ootes who is not here today, I had also indicated we would look at some kind of...

MR. SPEAKER:

Can we get some order? Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, if I have inadvertently offended my colleague because he is not here in the House today, I apologize. I was merely making a statement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Shame! Shame!

HON. JOHN TODD:

I only said he is not here today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Can we have some order please? The microphones do pick up a lot of things when the Members are speaking to each other across the floor like that. I also would remind the Members to refrain from mentioning Members who are not in the House. Mr. Todd, please.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you. Before I was rudely interrupted by my honourable colleague on this issue, I was making reference to my good friend, Mr. Ootes, who had raised an issue last week about the need for some kind of overall mechanism to supervise the P3. Of course, if I had

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had the time in my earlier response to finish maybe my honourable colleague, would have seen clearly that I was prepared to do that. That is the only point I was trying to make, nothing else.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes, do you have a point of privilege?

MR. OOTES:

Yes, I am present in the House today and I just wanted to be noted that I am. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

That is not a point of privilege. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 178-13(5): Funding for Inuvik and Iqaluit Hospitals

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question would be directed to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. It has been some time since I addressed the Minister and questioned him on funding for the Inuvik and Iqaluit hospitals. I would like to know if the Minister has received any further information in regard to the funding in the negotiations

that were going on with the federal government.
Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 178-13(5): Funding for Inuvik
and Iqaluit Hospitals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, I have
nothing new to report except to say that it is my
understanding that departmental officials and Health
and Welfare Canada continue to discuss the issue.
Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 178-13(5): Funding for
Inuvik and Iqaluit Hospitals

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us if
they are going along the same line that was the
agreement put in place back in 1988 when the
transfer occurred?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 178-13(5): Funding for
Inuvik and Iqaluit Hospitals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like I said,
negotiations continue to take place and we are trying
to reach a resolution as soon as possible. I think
what is safe to say is when there is a settlement on
the amount that the federal government, Health and
Welfare Canada, may contribute toward the cost of
Iqaluit and Inuvik hospitals, that projected timelines
for the cash flow will also be one major aspect of the
agreement, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 178-13(5): Funding for
Inuvik and Iqaluit Hospitals

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us
when negotiations conclude because before we left in
December the Minister informed me that possibly by
the end of January, we might be looking to a result, so
is that now the end of February? What is the time
limit we are looking at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 178-13(5): Funding for
Inuvik and Iqaluit Hospitals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think in all
fairness to the negotiators there are a couple of
issues, I believe, that are outstanding right now. I
would expect that certainly within the next 30 to 60
days, hopefully we could have some agreement-in-
principle that could guide us toward concluding this
issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 179-13(5): Rationalization of Yellowknife
Office Space

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some further
questions for the Minister of Public Works and
Services regarding the leases and subsequent sale of
the Lahm Ridge Tower.

Mr. Speaker, was it not publicly and widely rumoured
and, in fact, was it not true that there was a draft
document entitled Yellowknife Office Space
Rationalization Plan in the possession of the
Department of Public Works and Services which
indicated the anticipated termination of the month-to-
month leases with the Lahm Ridge Tower, which the
former owner of the Lahm Ridge Tower would or
might have been aware of? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Can I ask the Member to rephrase that because she is asking the Minister to confirm a rumour. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

I will ask my question again and I will try to be more clear. I will not ask if the Minister is aware whether or not the former owner knew of this but was it not a fact that there was a draft in the possession of the Department of Public Works and Services that had to do with the Yellowknife rationalization office space plan which indicated

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they anticipated terminating all of the month-to-month leases in the Lahm Ridge Tower? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 179-13(5): Rationalization of Yellowknife Office Space

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department had been working on the Yellowknife office plan since January of last year, 1997, and throughout last year they had been working on it. By July they had a good understanding of what was required in Yellowknife. A document was developed in that regard. There was a document that was generally speaking about the rationalization of the office plans in Yellowknife. Specifically, a lot of different ideas were thrown in. I cannot specifically say, or cannot recall right now if there was an item that says all month-to-month leases will be terminated or not. I will have to check on that. These documents are still in existence today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Question period is over. I will allow you to conclude your supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 179-13(5): Rationalization of Yellowknife Office Space

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate that. The Minister refers to the document and I do believe it specifically, and I will, of course, wait for the Minister's response. I do believe it specifically refers to the Lahm Ridge Tower as anticipating the termination of leases.

My next question is, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Marceau, the former owner of the Lahm Ridge Tower, was under eminent threat of losing millions of dollars if he incurred the liability of an empty office building in a depressed office rental market. If he did not get the lease extensions or sell his property to someone who could get the leases extended. Could this reasonably explain why he sold his building for almost \$2 million less than the declared value? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 179-13(5): Rationalization of Yellowknife Office Space

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know the details of the sale of the Lahm Ridge Tower between two publicly-owned companies. It is their business. It is none of the government's business to know how much this building was sold for. I cannot really answer that question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 179-13(5): Rationalization of Yellowknife Office Space

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicates that it is not the government's business to know the details of the sale between two private companies; namely, Lahm Ridge Investment Limited and the numbered company owned by Mr. Bailey/Mr. Mrdjénovich. However, in a document tabled in the House on Friday, the Minister does indicate they knew there was a company in the wings to buy the property and they knew the names. So, to say that they were not aware of the details, Mr. Speaker, I would say is somewhat misleading. I would like the Minister to clarify that for me. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Point of order. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member just accused the Minister of misleading this House. She did that with no evidence at all. I would ask her to retract, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I am unsure whether or not there is a point of order. But I would allow some debate before we make a ruling on that point of order. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I was trying to say is the Minister had just indicated that it was not the government's business to know all the details of a sale between two private companies. What I did was refer to the tabled document, return to oral questions, tabled in the House on Friday, which states that when an agreement was reached on the extension provisions of the Lahm Ridge lease, the Department of Public Works and Services were aware the owner was attempting to negotiate a sale to 974102 NWT Limited and the department was aware of the names of the owners of the new company. That was my statement. I do not intend to offend the Minister of Public Works and Services and I will retract the word misleading. Thank you. It is just confusing over there.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I would like to thank the Member for Hay River. You still have your supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question then is could the Minister please clarify his former comments indicating the department was not aware of the details of the sale between the two private companies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 179-13(5):
Rationalization of Yellowknife Office Space

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I did say in the last session, and today as well to the honourable Mr. Krutko, that when it became clear in the beginning of August, when the superintendent negotiated the deal with Lahm Ridge Investment that the superintendent and owner signed off the proposed extension provisions at that time.

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At that point in time it became clear to the superintendent and the deputy minister that the owners wished to obtain the extension in order to make the building attractive to a potential buyer. I did make that statement. When I said I did not know the details of the sale is that I do not know the price arrangement between the two privately-owned companies. That is what I meant by saying we do not get involved with details of this sale between two companies. Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify that point. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 179-13(5):
Rationalization of Yellowknife Office Space

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I fully understand what the Minister is saying. I was referring to the devalued price of the property when it was sold. I do understand the Minister would not have had knowledge of that.

My final question, Mr. Speaker, is the lease, after the initial five-year terms was eligible for two further five-year extensions. Two years have been used up on month-to-month tenancies. Renewals are usually negotiated in five-year increments. I know the government enters into ten-year leases on occasion, but is there any precedent for extending two five-year options at the same time and would this have been done to accommodate the financing arrangements for the new company? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 179-13(5):
Rationalization of Yellowknife Office Space

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

I think there was two questions there. The first one was yes, and the second one was, I do not know. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question to the Premier.

Written Question 5-13(5): Operating Guidelines for Senior Management Personnel

1. Does the government have a set of ethics guidelines governing senior management personnel, including assistant deputy ministers and deputy ministers? If they exist, can the Premier provide a set of those guidelines?
2. Are there enforceable conflict of interest guidelines governing senior management personnel in the workplace? If they exist, can the Premier provide a set of those guidelines?
3. Are there any enforceable conflict of interest guidelines limiting former employees from conducting business with the government after they cease government employment? If they exist, can the Premier provide a set of those guidelines?
4. What other accountability mechanisms govern senior management personnel in the workplace?
5. A number of senior management personnel have negotiated individual employment contracts with the government. Do the same accountability mechanisms apply to all senior management personnel?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of Bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 29-13(5): Public Utilities Board of the Northwest Territories - 1997 Annual Report

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Public Utilities Board 1997 Annual Report. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99; Committee Report 2-13(5); Committee Report 3-13(5); Committee Report 4-13(5); Committee Report 5-13(5); Tabled Document 15-13(5); Tabled Document 19-13(5). With Mr. Steen in the Chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I would like to call the committee to order. For consideration by the committee we have Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99; Committee Report 02-13(5); Committee Report 03-13(5); Committee Report 04-13(5); Committee Report 05-13(5); Tabled Document 15-13(5) 1998-99 Budget Address and Tabled Document 19-13(5) Guidelines for Implementing Public/Private Partnerships. Could I have some indication which way you wish to proceed, Mr. Ootes?

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, that we proceed with Tabled Document 15-13(5) followed by Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99; Committee Report 02-13(5); Committee Report 03-13(5) and that we continue with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs followed by the Legislative Assembly.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. We will proceed in that order after a 15 minute break. May I remind the Members that the Apprenticeship Week event will take place in the Great Hall during the break.

--Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I would like to call the committee to order. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. We have a long list here. I do not think I have to read it. I think everyone has a copy of the orders of the day. Should I go on? We are dealing with Tabled Document 15-13(5), 1998-99 Budget Address. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of questions to direct toward the Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd. My first question is in regard to the National Child Benefit Program. What I am talking about here is more in line with our share of that child benefit program. I note that in the document it says that families with \$42,000 income or less will receive some form of child tax benefit. My question is, Mr. Chairman, was there some consideration given to the fact that \$42,000 in Fort Smith is worth a lot more than \$42,000 in Sachs Harbour? How is this imbalance addressed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

First of all, this is administered through Revenue Canada under the Income Tax Act, et cetera, and we are unable to differentiate, if you want, based upon cost of living. What Mr. Dent did try to do - and I realize, of course, it was a million - we have tried to re-evaluate in the food basket, taking a look at the cost of living components in each of the communities and see if we can make an adjustment. On the child benefit, no, Mr. Chairman because it is being administered by Revenue Canada, it is across the board and we were unable to do that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I realize we do not have much input into what Revenue Canada or the feds were doing as far as their share of the Child Benefit Program, my question is more in relation to the share of funds we contributed towards this program. I wonder if the Minister could give me some indication as to what caregivers, social programs or social committees were involved in this decision to just simply increase the Child Tax Benefit under the feds rather than go with some other approach of our own. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, of course, Mr. Chairman, this was a federal program and all we did is top it up. We were required by federal act, I suppose, legislation. No? A federal agreement, my colleague, Mr. Dent, tells me, to realign these. What we did is we topped it up another \$2 million. They put in \$2.3 million, I believe. We topped it up \$2 million for it to have what we felt was a reasonable fiscal component for those less fortunate. Now we did talk to and I did specifically talk to a number of advocacy groups out there who advocate for the poor and advocate for the less fortunate. I think there was general agreement by some of these groups that we were heading in the right direction. Of course, being administered by the federal government there is minimal administrative cost attached to this so the maximum benefits flow out, if you want, to the constituency at large. Through agreement, we were required to move in this direction. Both Mr. Dent and myself felt at the time that it required an additional fiscal boost to ensure that there was a reasonable child benefit that would impact upon those who were in most need. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister indicate what amount of income support payment offset and what dollar figure are we reducing income support payments?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The Minister responsible for FMB, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Chairman, \$2.3 million.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Just for clarification, Mr. Chairman, \$2.2 million is what we are estimating we are going to reduce income support payments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

For clarity purposes, Mr. Chairman, it is \$2.3 million that we would reallocate to this Child Tax Benefit from the federal income support. We added an addition from our own resources of \$2 million to ensure that there was a reasonable amount of dollars going to those less fortunate. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Obviously in order to get the support payments you would have to be first eligible to receive benefits from the Child Tax Benefit Program. So in fact, we are reducing income support payments by \$2.2 million. Where is the major impact of that going to be felt? In my regions where the cost of living is more?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Is the question my honourable colleague referring to the dollars that we are going to top up the food basket or is he referring to the child benefit?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, what I was referring to was the reduction in income support payments. Obviously you have to be eligible to receive a tax benefit in order to receive a portion of this reduction in income support payment. What my question was is where was the income support payment reductions going to be felt the most if the cost of living is greater in my region than it is in northern Alberta or Fort Smith? It is going to cost quite a bit more for a parent to look after one child in my region than it would in Fort Smith. That is what I am getting at here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. Dent who is dealing with the detail of this program to answer Mr. Steen's question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Before I recognize Mr. Dent, I received a note here from Mr. Ootes to recognize a very special person up in the gallery. Mr. Ootes' wife, Margaret.

--Applause

Thank you. Welcome to the committee. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the National Child Benefit will be paid to families on a monthly basis. That payment has to be declared as income. If the family is on income support they would declare the amount of the combined territorial/federal cheque for that month's income and it would then reduce the amount of income support paid by this government. Added to that is the territorial top-up to the program so that the program winds up benefiting the family in relation to the cost of living as the cost of living in the Income Support Program varies across the territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate Mr. Dent, Minister of ECE responding, but I am going to reserve my questions to him as I presume I get an opportunity when his budget is before me. If I could redirect another question to Mr. Todd. But first, I would like to comment, Mr. Chairman, that it is very simple to follow the federal government's program of simply putting money in an envelope and forwarding it to the parents and say, there is your help, that is our share of the help. For us to do the same and at no cost, it seems to me to be taking the easy way out. I think, like I said before in my reply to the Budget Address, that I thought committees would have been given some opportunity to address, under community empowerment, how they could best get these funds to needy children. Therefore, I am suggesting we may have taken the easy way out by just simply mailing a cheque out to the public, to needy families. My second question is to Mr. Todd, again, it seems to be a suggestion of unfair balance here where, obviously, under the Investment Program it is going to depend on how much of your spare income you will have available to invest. Therefore again, using my honourable colleague from Fort Smith as an example, a person working in Fort Smith would obviously have more money to invest because he has less living expenses. Is it not a bit unfair the way this system is drawn up, in that the people in the southern part of the territory are going to have a better advantage to invest money than those in the north because of our cost of living.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Chairman. My experience has been, coming from the eastern Arctic living in smaller communities, that there is a significant amount of dollars out there, both in the private sector and in those who are working that may be prepared to throw some risk capital into new ventures in the territories that would provide them with a significant tax credit. I never thought of it in relation to the cost of living, Mr. Chairman. But I am fairly confident that the uptake will be fairly balanced and I am not so sure that the cost of living would have a bearing on it. It would have a bearing on how much disposable income you have. Certainly, in my experience, there was some reasonable disposable income there that people are prepared to risk out there. I think that has been proven on a number of occasions where we have seen investments unfold in Clyde River, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet, et

cetera. I do not really see, when we are talking investment community or small investment from whatever it is, \$500 to \$1,000 up to \$100,000 worth, the cost of living would have that much of an impact. It may, in fairness to Mr. Steen, but it certainly is not something I took into consideration, to be quite candid with you, in putting forward this tax initiative that, of course, the committee under Mr. Erasmus, worked so hard to support.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen, your allotted time has run out. I have on the list, Mr. Barnabas, Member for High Arctic. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Translation ends) I congratulate the Finance Minister and this Cabinet for presenting a balanced budget. But there are some concerns I would like to raise on the issues in the budget. On an average basis per month, Baffin region accounts approximately 38 percent of total social assistance payments made to the residents of Northwest Territories. This figure is staggering. In remote communities, the cost of food is very high. For people living on income support and wages from low paying jobs, it makes it difficult to provide healthy food for themselves and their families. On average, statistics show people in my constituency pay approximately \$137 more per week than people in Yellowknife and \$20 more per week than people in Iqaluit for family food costs. Income Support Food Allowance will help alleviate the high cost of the shortfall, while they are about to go down when this money runs out. What I would like to know is how these small communities will benefit?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Minister.

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HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Dent reallocated a million dollars we found in new money that we wanted to put into the food basket, recognizing that again in a perfect situation, you would like to do more. We are working in the fiscal frame with what we have, and Mr. Dent, I believe, is re-evaluating cost of living across the territories and looking at how we would reallocate these. Hopefully, in some small way, there will be an improvement on the resources available to the people, to the low

income families that will provide them with a means to at least purchase more food than they have in the past. It is not a perfect situation, but it is one that we have tried to address in some small way. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question for the honourable Minister John Todd, Minister of Finance. Mr. Chairman, my question is, is the Minister of Finance telling us that he had to decrease the Income Support Program in order to increase child tax benefits. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Ask Mr. Dent. He can give you the details of it, Mr. Chairman. We gave him the money.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe it is Mr. Dent. You will respond?

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way the National Child Benefit works is, the family will receive a cheque on a monthly basis for the child benefit. If the family is on income support, that amount of money will be declared as income. So yes, there is an offset from the amount received for the National Child Benefit to income support, that is where the \$2.2 or \$2.3 million comes from. The amount of money that we expect will be offset is that amount \$2.2 or \$2.3 million. Where the benefit really kicks in is with earned income. With earned income, the families will wind up keeping much more of the money. I think it is important to point out that the vast majority of people in the Northwest Territories who collect income support, do so only for short periods of time. People are on the income support system for awhile and then off. They do have a surprising amount of earned income in the territories and that is where they will get to see a real benefit. As the Minister of Finance noted, because we knew that there would be some people though who would not benefit because of not having any earned income, we looked at increasing the food basket and that is where the million dollars that we were profiling

will go. The million dollars is to ensure that families on income support can at least come closer to purchasing a healthy food basket. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, the honourable Minister. Thank you. We are dealing with or reviewing for that matter, Tabled Document 15-13(5) 1998-99 Budget Address. I have on the list, if there are no other Members who wish to speak who have not spoken yet on that side, Mr. Steen indicated he wanted to speak. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, thank you. Mr. Chairman, on page two, the Minister refers to our budget, our fiscal position could be impacted by the results of current negotiations regarding pay equity. I would like to ask the Minister where are we going to find \$40 million to settle this pay equity?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Chairman, of course, I still have to get an agreement on it. I indicated earlier today the gap between what we think is affordable and what appears to be requested by the union are a long way from concluding an arrangement. Assuming we can conclude an arrangement similar to what we have laid out through a negotiated process, I am confident we can find the monies through a variety of areas. One is good fiscal prudent management of our dollars. We are working hard to get the numbers together in terms of some of the population stats. We think some dollars may roll in there, and frankly, Mr. Chairman, we will just have to run the government even more efficiently than what we are, and hopefully be able to find and squeeze the dollars that are necessary out of the system and do it in a manner that does not affect program changes and downsizing. I am confident that we can do that. We are looking at that right now. If my honourable colleague wants specifics as to where I am going to take the money, I do not have that at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I bring this out to show in some degree that the government seems to have the capability to find money if they really need it. One particular item that does not seem to be addressed by this Legislature and previous Legislatures is cost of living in the High Arctic in my communities and I am sure to some degree, the Finance Minister could say it applies to his region too. So, in regard to the government's ability to find money if they need it, I see just as much a need to offset the cost of living and cost of food in High Arctic communities as there is to find money to settle pay equity. I would want to know from the Minister's point of view, what or is there anything, any plan in place whereby we will assist those people in the High Arctic communities to offset the cost of food up there. I am not just talking about those on welfare, or income support is the new word, I am talking about everybody who has to buy food up there, comparably. I cannot understand how any government can use a figure of \$42,000 and assume that one portion of the territories is benefiting as much as the other portion of the territories. I just cannot understand how that could be taken as a calculation. My comments, if you want to call them comments, and question to the Minister is, should we not at some point, address this unfair balance, cost of living?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Finance Minister, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

In our collective agreements in terms of organized labour, we are in fact answering that through the cost of living allowance. In fact, I am talking about one section

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of the population right now. We are trying to address that in the negotiations right now. Hopefully, that will be addressed. It will never be addressed to everybody's satisfaction but I think there is a recognition that you need to put some more dollars in there that we can afford. On the less fortunate, I think in some small way as I have said, Mr. Dent and myself, through the child benefit and the increase in food to the income support side of things, have tried to address that. It is not a perfect solution. In terms of the non-government and non-income support people, we have not addressed that. I take my colleague's

comments seriously. We will have to go back and I will have to think about how we would deal with that. We certainly have not addressed it in this budget, no.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say I will readdress the question to Mr. Dent when I reach his budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are dealing with Tabled Document 15-13(5), 1998/99 Budget Address. Are there any more comments? How does the committee wish to proceed? I was not here when we started. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we can continue with Bill 8, Department of Aboriginal Affairs followed by the Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

We have instruction from the chairman of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, Mr. Ootes, that we are to deal with Bill 8, Appropriation Act, Aboriginal Affairs followed by Legislative Assembly if we have the concurrence of the Members. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We shall proceed with Aboriginal Affairs. Mr. Antoine, do you wish to bring in the witnesses?

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we agree that the Minister will bring in the witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Proceed, Mr. Minister. Thank you. For the record, for the benefit of Members, we are on page 2-40 of the Main Estimates. We are dealing with Aboriginal Affairs, 1998-1999 Main Estimates activity summary. For the record, Mr. Minister, would you now introduce the witnesses please.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to my right is Fred Koe, he is the deputy minister of Aboriginal Affairs. To my left is Peter Bannon, director of policy and coordination. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Welcome to the committee. We are in the general comments. Mr. Krutko and Mr. Picco in that order. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the Minister is regarding the whole area of coordinating his efforts between himself and the federal government regarding the different changes we see happening in regard to cuts to health. When I talk about education funding, I look at it in the context of the area of treaty rights where people who move, say, to schools in southern Canada but yet still are registered on band lists or Inuit who are listed in the Northwest Territories. This government receives funding on their behalf and yet they seem to have a real problem when it comes to being able to acquire funds for education, or basically, health care in southern facilities, either going from the territories to the Yukon or territories into one of the provinces. Has your department looked at the whole area of the rights question of how it has been watered down by all these different changes that affect the aboriginal people and the concerns that people have who might be going to southern institutions for education or whatever but seem to have a real problem acquiring program services from this government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in reply to the honourable Member's question on the registered aboriginal people and the treaties or Inuit who

originate from the north here where it is their home and may have moved down into southern Canada into the provinces, in terms of them acquiring funding to continue their education the Department of Education, Culture and Employment has signed an agreement with the federal department of Indian and Northern Affairs where once these individuals move to the south, they become the responsibility of DIAND wherever they moved to in the south. This is a fairly new arrangement that we have been able to come to, to try and address that problem. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the self-government process that is presently in place, especially in the Beaufort Delta and other areas, the one area they seem to have a real problem with is getting actual figures on the amounts this government requires on behalf of aboriginal people, especially funds that flow through Indian Affairs and then to this government, especially when it comes to programs and services that are recognized as an inherent right, especially when it talks about education, medical and other arrangements which are listed under the treaties. There has to be a more open process, especially when it comes to information flow. That seems to be a problem especially at the negotiation table when you talk about costs that are going to occur through those processes. At the end of the day, who is going to pay for the implementation of those self-government agreements and exactly how much of those funds that presently exist in this government's budget will flow through to

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the self-government agreements. Is that information going to be...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko, you are off the microphone.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount of funds that flow through, will the department have the ability to acquire this information from Ottawa or through these transfer agreements that presently are in place in regard to the federal transfers? Can that information be made public to ourselves as Members in this

House but also to the aboriginal groups who are aware of what these amounts and these dollars are in the way they are allocated based on percentages, people or number of individuals on the band list or whatever. Can that information be acquired through this government so that it will assist the aboriginal groups to negotiate their self-government agreements?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is a difficult thing to try to come to a figure like the honourable Member is asking because this Government of the Northwest Territories accounting methods do not make a difference between aboriginal or non-aboriginal because these programs and service dollars are coming to the Government of the Northwest Territories under the Formula Financing Agreement. Everybody is included in this arrangement therefore it is the ministry responsible for doing that, the Financial Management Board Secretariat. They are attempting to compile these figures to the best of their abilities but again, the accounting methods used by this government does not differentiate between aboriginal and non-aboriginal. Again, the formula financing arrangement includes everybody as a whole, so it is very difficult to say what are treaty dollars or aboriginal dollars versus non-aboriginal dollars. It is difficult to do that. There is an attempt by the Financial Management Board Secretariat to do this. At the self-government negotiating table, the honourable Member makes references to the Beaufort Delta where there is ongoing self-government talks. All the GNWT dollars are on the table for programs and services that are provided. There is discussion between the GNWT officials and the federal government officials in regard to the extra costs that it is going to cost to implement these self government arrangements. So we have been discussing with the federal government this incremental cost because once the self-government arrangements are put into place, the programs and services that the GNWT are currently providing are on the table, negotiation is on the way. I cannot really say exactly how much right now but this is subject to negotiations. Once that is concluded, then the extra costs we are negotiating currently and discussing with the federal government officials that they should pick up any extra costs that may be there for implementing

the programs and services as a result of the self-government negotiations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is in relation to the whole area of affirmative action, especially in this department where there is responsibility for aboriginal people. I would like to congratulate you for appointing Mr. Koe as the deputy minister, who is an aboriginal person. I would like to know from the Minister, do you have statistics on exactly the number of aboriginal people within your department that presently work there? Do you have some figures on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you have specific details? Do you have the answer for that? Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is a very small department. There is actually only 18 of the 21 approved positions that are filled at this point in time. Percentage wise, we have 24 percent of the employees who are aboriginal people, 25 percent are indigenous non-aboriginal or long-term, about 40 percent of the senior management are aboriginal. That is the best I can do right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Your time has run out, Mr. Krutko, for the time being. Your time has run out and I will come back to you. I will recognize Mr. Picco, who has not spoken at this time. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, does Aboriginal Affairs have the right under this government to look at the coordination, participation and comprehensive aboriginal land claims. My concern has been the overlapping claim for awhile in the Nunavut settlement area with the Makavik. I had some information provided to me by the Minister and each time we have had questions on this area, the

Minister and his staff have been very forthcoming. I would like to thank them for that.

My concerns are with the overlap as it relates to the Makavik claim and the James Bay overlapping negotiations. I understand that the Attawapiskat Island which is located at the bottom of James Bay which is part of the land area of the Northwest Territories Government, is included in an overlap claim. There is some indication that the Cree people from northern Ontario have some concern with Attawapiskat Island. I would like to begin there to find out if there is any update on Attawapiskat Island in James Bay which is part of the overlap claim of the Nunavut settlement area. Later we can go into the situation regarding the Makavik offshore claims. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, would you like to endeavour to respond? Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in regard to the James Bay area there is no official process started to talk about those islands the honourable Member is mentioning. However, there is discussion because this is something that may happen in the future. We are aware there is interest in the James Bay area, that there is

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going to be discussion about these islands. As of now, there is no formal process to start talking about this overlap. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that is my concern that, indeed, all islands that are in the Hudson or James Bay presently belong to the Government of the Northwest Territories. On April 1, 1999, when division occurs, the islands and other interests that are not included in the Nunavut settlement area, because there have been some agreements with the Makavik on those islands for example, especially in the Davis or Hudson Strait area just north of northern Quebec, the concern here with the Attawapiskat claim and the islands in James

Bay, it seems we have done nothing with them. So what happens on April 1, 1999? Are those automatically transferred to the Nunavut government? Would the Nunavut government have to negotiate some type of treaty settlement plan with the peoples there? I understand there has been some requests made by the Cree of northern Ontario to hunt deer or to hunting on that Attawapiskat Island. There have been arrangements made with this government to allow those people to go in there. What happens after that? Could we have some clarification? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On the overlap concern, Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman before April 1, 1999 if the federal government agrees to start a formal process such as they have done in the Makavik area, then this government will be responsible for leading the discussion or leading the negotiation on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories but we have to inform the Interim Commissioner about our activities in this area and pass on that information. Once April 1, 1999 occurs, this responsibility will then flow to the Nunavut government.

Like I said earlier, there is no formal process underway in the James Bay area. If that process gets under way after April 1, 1999 then it will be the responsibility of the Nunavut government after that point in time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, at the present time we have ascertained that, indeed, there is no formal process for the James Bay area because the federal government has not initiated any type of land claims process. Is that correct, for James Bay? To follow up on that, Mr. Chairman, has NTI, the land claim group for the Nunavut settlement area, have they been updated on the processes to date with James Bay because the last time I was home in Iqaluit, I did make mention to our land claim beneficiary organization, which is the DIO, their Qikiqtani Inuit Association did not seem, at that time,

to be up to date on any type of negotiations or anything that was happening with that area. I wonder if that could be clarified for the record? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the James Bay area, there is no real formal process. I think the honourable Member is correct; NTI, I am not too sure if they have been updated or informed about it, because there is no formal process in place. Perhaps you are aware of it. On our side, we are aware there is interest and there are some informal discussions going on with the knowledge that there is interest by the James Bay Cree for the James Bay Islands. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I do not know, Mr. Picco, if you are going to go in depth where the Minister may not be knowledgeable. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if I could just get a commitment from the Minister that whatever process is in place, they actually have some type of letter from or phone call from the department or in writing to NTI, just to let them know what is happening with the James Bay situation. There is no process in place and maybe it is time we contacted the federal government and find out exactly what is happening with those islands in James Bay because they are part of the Nunavut settlement area. Could I get that commitment from the Minister at this time? I would like to go into another question after that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you kindly, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will do that. We will notify the federal government and NTI about the James Bay area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my second question or area is again on the Makavik Offshore Land Claim negotiations. I had discussions at home in Iqaluit last month with some people on the Makavik Offshore Land Claim. On the offshore land claim, Makavik have actually gone and have tried to or are putting in a claim to look at inland waters and adjoining seas, if I believe is correct, for fishery and seals. I wonder if the department could confirm that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The Honourable Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my information on the inland waters is we are not too sure what that is about. But as to the adjoining seas in regard to oceans and fisheries, we are aware that the Makavik is interested in the offshores. We have staff involved in these talks. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

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MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand that the Makavik has looked at an overlap claim on the offshore. I would also be interested in knowing from the department if there is anyone from NTI, which is the land claim organization and beneficiary organization, involved in those discussions with the Makavik on their offshore claims and also on the islands? So, there is offshore which would be off the coast and the adjoining islands to northern Quebec. I would ask again as I am running out of time here, if the Minister could again confirm in writing or acknowledge something to NTI to let them know something about these land claims officially? Maybe to find out indeed, if there is anyone from NTI represented at the table during these Makavik offshore claims on the Nunavut settlement area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, at any time at all if you want to designate a response at your discretion. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you. Yes, in the overlap in the Makavik claim areas in the offshore, the NTI representatives are invited to all the talks. They are involved and included in the discussions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Your time is up for the time being. I will recognize Mr. Steen, who is on the list.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, is the department involved at all in the dispute with Dene from northern Saskatchewan, northern Manitoba and their claim to a portion of Nunavut?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Dene from northern Saskatchewan had a delegation come to the north a few times. In the fall of this year they had a delegation here and the Premier and myself did meet with them. They were expressing and explaining their traditional area is north of the 60th parallel. We are aware of their concerns and we are not really involved in that. I think it is a dispute between the northern Saskatchewan Dene and especially with their claims in Nunavut area. We are encouraging different First Nations to deal with each other in regard to these overlap issues. We are not directly involved in those types of discussions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, according to the correspondence that went across my desk, there was a copy of a letter from Dene from northern Saskatchewan to the Prime Minister, asking him to intervene in the establishment of Nunavut before their concerns are addressed. I was just wondering if the Minister could tell, in fact, whether this could have some impact on whether or not Nunavut is going to be established in time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister may or may not be aware of the letter in question. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we are aware there is concern by the Dene in northern Saskatchewan as well in northern Manitoba that their traditional area is north of the 60th parallel in the Nunavut area. In monitoring the situation, we are aware there is concern by the Dene of the northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba their concerns are not being addressed. They are approaching all of their avenues which are available to them, including writing to the Prime Minister. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you. My last question, Mr. Chairman. If the question came up, does this government have a position on whether they would support Nunavut being established. I presume this is something that is really going to be addressed between Nunavut people and Indian Affairs. I believe there is a possibility that this government is going to be asked to take a position on this and I am wondering what the position would be.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Government of the Northwest Territories has taken the position with regard to Nunavut that we are in support of division. The border was decided, the agreements, the Nunavut Act is in place and so forth. As far as this government is concerned Nunavut is going to go ahead April 1, 1999 for the creation of Nunavut. With regard to the dispute of the Dene of northern Saskatchewan and northern Manitoba, what we would like to encourage is that the First Nations of northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba deal with the NTI to look at this issue. I believe there has been some attempt in the past to do that. I would like to encourage that sort of discussion and dialogue to happen between the Dene and the NTI. That is the

only type of involvement we have in that area, for this encouragement. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen, you indicated that was your last question. I will hold you up to that statement. I recognize Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just getting clarification on my last question on affirmative action. I asked the Minister with regard to affirmative action candidates how many people does he have who are classified as P1s. The federal government has taken real initiative, especially in Indian Affairs, to try and entice aboriginal people to work within the government. I would like to ask the Minister exactly what improvements has he seen in relation to affirmative action in his department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Again, Mr. Minister, if you want to designate, it is up to you. Mr. Minister.

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HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we follow the Government of the Northwest Territories affirmative action policy in this department. We have just had a major review done of the ministry and part of our planning action and a result of the review is to follow the aboriginal affairs policy and say we could get more aboriginal people into this ministry. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Can the Minister clarify the numbers that he spoke about earlier. He mentioned there are 21 positions, 18 are filled and three are vacant. Out of that there are 24 percent considered P1s and 25 percent are considered northern aboriginal. Could he clarify those numbers and if it is possible to get copies of those numbers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are five employees who are aboriginal and six employees who are indigenous non-aboriginal or long-term employees. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko. I think you asked for a copy. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. If it is possible to get a copy of that. I thought you mentioned earlier that you had 18 positions within the department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you. Yes, we have 21 approved positions in this ministry and 18 of them are filled. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Could the Minister tell us, what are those other three positions which are not filled, what class are they?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The honourable Member is asking for what three positions we do not have filled, we have an executive secretary, a policy analyst and a director's secretary, which is under the self-government negotiation division. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have all the self-government positions been filled in which there was a request through a supplementary, I believe, last

spring, asking for \$2,000. Have all those positions been filled with regard to the self-government negotiation positions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the positions underneath what the honourable Member is asking for have been filled. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are dealing with the activity summary of Aboriginal Affairs. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the whole negotiation process, self-government, the negotiating of the claim settlements with regard to the Dogribs, South Slave, what is the timeframe for each of those positions and when do you see conclusion of those negotiations or the self-government agreements being concluded through an agreement-in-principle or final negotiations? Do you have timeframes for how long these processes are going to take?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is very difficult to determine exactly how long these negotiations are going to take place. It all depends on how the negotiations go at each table. I cannot really put any specific dates on any of them. The only way I could put it is that we are always trying to get it done as soon as possible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, I believe you have not concluded your response. Mr. Minister. You have concluded the response, Mr. Minister?

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

The only thing is that we are targeting about six months to a year in each one of these negotiations that are underway at this point in time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General question, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

You do not have to be precise. Tentatively, we can throw a ballpark figure in the air. I think for the public out there who want to deal with the whole question of certainty and exactly what is going to happen and all the misleading accusations they hear out there because of people not knowing exactly what these processes are going to do or what stages they are at, that is the reason I ask. I do not think you have to be exact. My personal knowledge is that the Beaufort Delta is looking at an agreement-in-principle by April 1, 1999. Is that a rough ballpark figure that you can agree to?

Also, with regard to the Dogrib claim, everybody knows that they are pretty close. They are looking at possibly a year down the road. There again, I do not think there is anything to hide here. I think that we should be honest with the public. We should make them aware exactly when these processes are going to end, that the resources that this government is putting in to it has to be adequate and there has to be a conclusion to these processes. I would like to ask the Minister again, can he give us rough, tentative dates for the conclusion of these negotiations, if they are at the starting line or pretty close to the finish line? I think the answer he gave does not help any body.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I think we have to remind ourselves that this government is one of a number of parties in discussion. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Government of the Northwest Territories is a third party at the negotiating table. For example, in the Beaufort Delta you have the Beaufort Delta, the Inuvialuits and the Gwich'in together sitting with the federal government and ourselves. With the Dogrib negotiations, the federal government is negotiating with the Dogrib along with us as a federal government third party. In all these cases, we are the third party interest. In the Beaufort case they want to move as soon as they can and they are targeting April 1, 1999 for an agreement-in-principle. So I am saying six months. Yes, the question the honourable Member

asked if the Beaufort Delta targeting April 1, 1999 was reasonable, I say yes. That is within the life of this Legislative Assembly. The Dogrib are aiming for an AIP within a six-month period as well. So, six months to a year, give or take, because we are third party to this whole process.

Everybody that is negotiating at the table, look at the federal government and we are saying that we would like to conclude and finish off all these claims negotiations and the self-government negotiations in the life of the federal government because we are dealing with one government that is in Ottawa right now. They are the key players at this table here for these negotiations. In this way, six months to a year is a big ballpark figure but this is what we are dealing with at this point. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are dealing with Aboriginal Affairs, general comments. Are there any further general comments from the Members who have not spoken to this particular item? There are no other Members who have not spoken yet indicating, so I will recognize Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question to the Minister is the whole process of the department informing not only people within the government but the general public of these agreements that this government has signed in the way of some sort of a consultation process or publication of information, a document. What you find is that you have a lot of people even within the government or within different departments, who are not sure of what claims agreements are, what the different sections are, and exactly what rights apply in regard to those agreements. I think that this probably one of the biggest problems we have in the north. We do not understand each other. I would like to ask the Minister what has his department done to try to improve the consultation between the government, its staff and also the general public in regard to information that may be published through his department or having public meetings, what not? Has his department done anything in that area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the land claims process has been going on for a while and there are some agreements that have been reached. Specifically in the Dogrib case, they are negotiating land claims and they are also negotiating a self-government arrangement there as well as the Beaufort Delta. The South Slave Metis are also beginning to get into a formal process for negotiating lands, resources and self-government arrangements as well. There are some very unique and different processes underway here in the Northwest Territories. What this department has been doing over the last couple of years was to meet, inform and brief the other departments in this government, the senior management and the deputy ministers on the changes that will happen to this government once the self-government negotiations are concluded. Once the different types of arrangements are made with, for example, the Beaufort Delta and with the Dogrib, it is going to make a big change to this government and some of the departments and the way programs and services are being delivered. We have been informing the department and have been doing a lot of work in that area to make them aware of what self-government really means. It is a major change from the way things are done by this government.

In terms of the general public, it is part of our strategy to inform the public. These self-government arrangements are being negotiated at this point right now. Some sub-agreements have been reached, but they have not been ratified by this government. It is in the process of being negotiated. It is difficult to go out and start explaining these agreements before they have been ratified by this government and by this Legislative Assembly. What we are doing is making it public that there are negotiations going on now with the Beaufort Delta and the Dogrib. But specifically what kinds of arrangements have been made, they have not been finalized so we have not been going out and explaining what the agreements are being negotiated. Again, the department had gone through a review. We have looked at how we operate and we have seen where we need to improve. Part of the strategy is to start going out to the general public and have some sort of communication strategy to try to get these new self-government arrangements to the public. People will know what it is these types of new arrangements will look like and how it is going to affect them in the public. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Krutko, do you have a further question?

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there have been several claims settled in the Northwest Territories. You have the Inuvialuit, you have the Gwich'in, you have the Sahtu and you have the Nunavut claims. These claims have been around for a number of years. In regard to the Inuvialuit, they have been around since 1984. A lot of people in the general public do not have a clue what is in a lot of these agreements. I think a lot of people, even in this House, do not know what we mean by self-government agreements or what is going on in the whole question about your inherent right. You talk about agreements where we establish territorial parks which is part of a land claim agreement. So there is a lot of information that has been negotiated which affects the public in regard to harvesting rights and in regard to the management regimes

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that have been established through these agreements. There is a lot of information there but the public is still kept in the dark. When I asked the question earlier, I was referring to information, some publication of a summary of exactly what these agreements are. Does the Minister or his department have meetings with different agencies in this government to basically give them an overview of what claims negotiation process is? What do you mean by self-government? What do you mean by land claims in general? I think one thing that is really lacking is we have a lot of good people in the government, but they do not know the history of how a lot of these things came about. That is the area that I feel this department, who has been involved in negotiations, who has been at the negotiating table, who has signed off these land claims agreements and who are signatories to those agreements. So that was what I was asking about earlier. I would like to know, does the department have, basically, orientation sessions with different departments or people who come to work for this government to make them aware of what their department does and what we mean in the context of aboriginal claims, self-government or what rights flow from these agreements?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the land claims that have been negotiated and settled, like the honourable Member mentioned, there is an implementation process. Once the negotiated land claims come to an agreement, there is a lot of work, effort and people involved in it. Once you come to the end of the land claims negotiating process, then the implementation process starts. This department is responsible for it. We have six federally funded positions and about four or five positions that are responsible for implementing each one of the claims. There is a lot of work that goes into making sure that the provisions of each claim are interpreted and applied and that the agreements are complied with. Yes, there are different arrangements in each one of the claims that this government is a signatory to and responsible to carry out these responsibilities.

As far as public information, all these claims and acts are public information. It is up there for the public to look at, to read and to understand how each one of the claimant groups is responsible for their own region and their own territory in their claimant area.

In regard to orientation for the different government employees who come into each department, I do not think there is an official orientation process for each and every employee that is hired by the Government of the Northwest Territories to explain each one of the claims to them, but where the government employee is responsible for each particular department for a claim related area, they are very familiar with it. Like in terms of lands in the communities and lands outside the communities, they are familiar with the claim provisions. Mr. Chairman, that is the extent of the orientation process for this government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. For the record, we are on Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99 and we are on Aboriginal Affairs. General comments. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the whole area of the claims agreements that the Minister mentioned and that they are responsible for implementing these claims and being signatories to those agreements, there are certain sections of the different agreements which I am aware of that have not been totally concluded. One is the northern accord process. Also, in regard, to establishment of territorial parks which are a part of the agreement

which flows through this government which was established under land claim agreements called protected areas. The other area is in regard to the economic sections of the agreements. I am thinking about the Gwich'in and Sahtu agreements where it calls for annual reviews in regard to the economic programs that this government delivers so that aboriginal people could see if they are working in regard to benefiting them in any way; and, if not, have an opportunity to review exactly what the extent of those programs are and how they are presently being delivered in the different regions. What has the department done to ensure that these sections are being carried out and how soon will those be concluded?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the role of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is more of a coordination role because there are some departments, and two of the departments that the honourable Member mentioned are in the economic sections and also in the territorial parks section, under the responsibility of Renewable Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. These program departments take the lead and are responsible for different sections of each of the claims that are pertaining to them. Aboriginal Affairs, our role is to coordinate it with these leads the departments are responsible for, let us say, Economic Development. In regard to the territorial parks, I know RWED had started last year to develop a protected area strategy. It is part of trying to address the territorial parks issue and the protected area issue. So there is some work being done in that area. Also, part of the other role is that we give advice to these departments encouraging that the implementation of these claims should go ahead and be done in a timely manner. Again, making mention of the northern accord, it is an area where the last government made an attempt to try to resolve this issue but was unable to reach its issues. This government here has been pursuing northern control of northern resources which is actually the old northern accord process. You heard the Premier, the opening of his budget process, when he was before you here emphasizing the need to have control of our own resources in the north. So this government's position is that there is a need to pursue it, but we are one party to the whole process. How do we move along with it, in regard to the northern accord part of

it. The Aboriginal Affairs Ministry is part of the overall government and I think we are not really taking the lead in this one here. We are just advising and encouraging this process to move along.

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This department is responsible for implementation of these land claims agreements, however, we are monitoring, coordinating and trying to encourage that these claims implementations are taken care of by the different departments that are responsible for the different specific parts of the agreement. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding these land claims agreements, a lot of them were based on the whole notion that they would be developed through the public government system they have in place regarding the wildlife section being established through the NWT Act in regard to the NWT Wildlife Act. The other mechanism, economic measures section refers to this government and programs that this government delivers. I think that we talk about implementing agreements, I, for one, have negotiated two of the claims in the Western Territory regarding the Gwich'in and Sahtu claims. A lot of those elements today are not implemented. As signatories to these agreements, there have not been amendments made to the Wildlife Act to allow boards to have the authority and responsibilities that they have taken on regarding the Wildlife Act. There is a whole section on the northern accord. The Northern Accord Agreement flowed from an agreement that was signed in 1987 between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada to ensure that the negotiations between aboriginal people and this government will be concluded in order to transfer those authorities to this government. I mean, it is 1998 now. It is over ten years since that agreement has been in place, yet we continue to hear the argument that implementation is slow. Yes, but the time it takes to implement a lot of these agreements in regard to the Inuvialuit Agreement, just in the last couple of years amendments have been made to the Wildlife Act. That agreement has been around since 1984.

Again, that is another ten years implementing an agreement where the people signed in good faith and

basically ratified with the understanding that these agreements were going to effectively better the lives of the aboriginal people and bring them economic posterity. Also for the industry bring them certainty so they knew exactly what these agreements were so they knew exactly what the lay of the land was. But without a Northern Accord Agreement in place or any other agreement that has been concluded, the uncertainty is there. I think for this government to see what is happening around us, talking about oil and gas activity, mining activity and potential for lumber industry to start looking at opening up areas in the territories. Without that agreement in place I feel that there is a real area of mistrust and there is no process in place to deal with these uncertainty issues. I think for us to sit back here and say well, it is not up to us or whatever, we signed the Northern Accord Agreement with Ottawa in 1987. That is 11 years ago. It does not matter if it was this government or the previous government. It was the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada. So, we cannot keep passing this football back and forth and hope at the end someone fumbles it because for it to take this long I believe there is something wrong with the system, or basically that there is not a commitment on behalf of the parties to conclude it. So, I would like to ask the Minister exactly what is being done to ensure that there are timeframes attached to these arrangements and they are concluded as soon as possible?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Antoine, do you wish to respond in a short manner?

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Government of the Northwest Territories have been major advocates of a lot of the claims matters that the honourable Member mentioned there. Like the northern accord, we have been advocates of it, the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, there is more than just only the GNWT who are parties to this whole Northwest Territories and there is a need to build consensus on all these major issues, which is very difficult to do. These claims require consultation with all the claiming groups before any changes are made. It takes a lot of time for this consultation process to take place. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. I will now recognize Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier on today, the Minister had made comments about formula financing in amounts within the formula financing that we receive from Ottawa with regard to individual payments for aboriginal peoples. I was wondering if the Minister neglected to mention the reimbursements that the government receives and if he could elaborate a little further on that. I believe this government receives reimbursement from the federal government for expenditures that they incur on behalf of aboriginal peoples. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, making reference to the Formula Financing Agreement per se, which provides the overall general money for programs and services, aside from that there are some government transfer agreements specifically for different arrangements. For example, in the health transfer there is funding there. I am not too familiar with the arrangements, but there are arrangements for treaty Indians and Inuit people in that transfer agreement. Perhaps that is what the honourable Member is making references to, but I am not too familiar with that arrangement so it is difficult for me to say how much of that arrangement is for aboriginal people. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my comments were made and I think the Minister has touched on them a little bit. The federal government does reimburse the Government of the Northwest Territories for such items as dental care and drugs that this government incurs on behalf of aboriginal people, so the federal government does reimburse.

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It does not come through the Formula Financing Agreement, but the federal government does

reimburse the Government of the Northwest Territories for expenditures of this government on behalf of aboriginal people. The Minister has suggested he does not have available to him right now that information, but I would ask if he could have some of his staff at later time provide that information to us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this ministry is not aware of the details of any of the Financial Formula Agreement nor the transfer agreements. I am just not too familiar with that type of arrangement. It is the Financial Management Board, I guess, is the proper department to ask questions in regard to specifically what type of monies are flowing to the Northwest Territories for whom. In terms of dental and drug arrangements, it is the Ministry of Health and Social Services that is responsible for that. I do not know the details of any of the arrangements that are flowing to the GNWT for those services. The only thing I could do here is ask these different departments to see if there is any facts and figures regarding accommodating the honourable Members questions to be provided. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Henry. Thank you, Mr. Antoine.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand what the Minister is saying but I believe it would be important for the Minister to be aware of those particular pieces of information. I think it is important that the Minister would know what funds this government does get for aboriginal people and what funds, if any, are reimbursed. The reason I asked this question, it has been brought to my attention a number of times about the funds that are paid through the federal government in transfer payments and formula financing for the benefit of aboriginal people, and that is a fact, but it is a reimbursement. I certainly would encourage the Minister to avail himself of that information so that he can assist people of the Northwest Territories. If he can assist them in properly identifying and understanding what funds the federal government sends to the Government of the Northwest Territories on behalf of aboriginal people. I

asked the Minister to provide this information from the grounds that it will help clarify a lot of what I think is a misunderstanding about funds that come from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Would you like to respond, Mr. Antoine?

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we will work with the other departments and try to get this information. We do not have it in this ministry, but we will work with the other departments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. We are on general comments, Aboriginal Affairs. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if the Minister could elaborate on where the Treaty 8 and the Deh Cho negotiations are at? The land claims negotiations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Antoine, I believe that question was asked already but would you care to restate your answer?

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member, Mr. Erasmus, had wanted to know the status of the Treaty 8 negotiations and the Deh Cho, so I will provide that information. The Treaty 8, the First Nations of Fort Resolution, Lutselk'e and Yellowknife have been talking with the federal government and the Government of the Northwest Territories to review different options to the Akaitcho First Nations which they call themselves. They are attempting to determine if there is enough common ground to move forward on a combined, comprehensive and self-government type claim. The federal government Minister of DIAND announced last August that formal negotiations would begin on a framework agreement. At this negotiation progress it is becoming apparent that each of the First Nations of Akaitcho were coming to the table and it seemed to be with different priorities. However, they are united on the position that the aboriginal underlying title to all

the land in their own territory area. So, as of October of this fall in 1997, the meeting with the federal negotiator advised that this was a nonstarter at the table and should be dealt with at a political level. The Akaitcho chiefs are meeting internally now to develop a mandate and are planning to meet with the Minister of DIAND. They have already met with the Minister of DIAND on her last visit here to discuss their claim. I do not really know what the status is now. I think the request was that they would like to move along in their negotiating sessions and I do not really know what the reply of DIAND is at this point. But after meeting with the ministry, I think there is some positive discussion there.

In regard to the Deh Cho First Nation, they are trying to find enough common ground to start some sort of formal process, I believe. The Deh Cho Dene and Metis have made a proposal to the federal government and at this stage, the federal minister and Deh Cho are talking about hiring some sort of a ministerial envoy independent of government and Deh Cho to see if there is common ground between the federal government and Deh Cho to start some sort of a formal process. It is in the very early stage of anything formal at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not quite catch that. What was it that had to be, in the case of the chiefs of the Akaitcho territory, what was it that had to be resolved at the political level again?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Antoine.

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HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, during the formal negotiation process, the First Nations of Akaitcho territory were coming to the table with different priorities and did not really have a regional perspective on many of the issues. They were united on the position of the aboriginal underlying title to all the land in their traditional area. At the meeting in October, the federal negotiator advised them that this was a nonstarter at the table and should be dealt at the political level. I think the main point here is that

their main position was the aboriginal underlying title to all the land in their traditional area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, when the Minister indicates underlying title, does he mean that the First Nations did not want there to be extinguishment of aboriginal title through their claim or that the federal government had to agree that they do not have underlying title to the lands in question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think it is both. I think the position of the Akaitcho chiefs is that they do not agree with the extinguishment clause of the comprehensive claim policy as well as the federal government's position that the honourable Member just mentioned. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it must be awfully difficult but does the Minister have any indication whatsoever when these particular negotiations might be concluded?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is one of the processes that is very difficult. There are three First Nation bands here that the federal negotiator is now talking to on an individual basis because of their differing positions. So, it is very difficult to say. I think it is a long ways before we are going to see the end to this whole process. It still has a long ways to go. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. General comments. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we assume then that the terms of reference have not been concluded at this stage?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes, the terms of reference have not been concluded. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. General comments. Are there further general comments? Does the committee agree? Do we wish to proceed to the detail of the estimates? Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Yes, I am just trying to figure out what this department does that is why I ask so many questions. I hope you do not mind if I ask a few more. Is this government involved in the transboundary issues between the Yukon and the Government of the Northwest Territories, with regard to the overlapping matters such as harvesting and say, the Yukon, because of the transboundary agreement, which is part of the Gwich'in agreement?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this government, I think RWED, is the lead in this ministry in regard to transboundary issues in regard to wildlife and this department, this ministry, is not involved in that transboundary issue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the reason I ask the question is I believe that this government does

participate in public functions in regard to the Yukon and the Northwest Territories in relation to the Peel River Watershed. I was not too sure on the Minister's answers. He said that they do not take part. Can he clarify his point?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

No. I was saying that the ministry was not directly involved with what the Ordinary Member was asking about previously on the transboundary issues. However, we play a role in this government as monitoring the implementation of the claims and work along with the department that has taken the lead role in that. So, perhaps I should have been clear in the last answer, but we are involved in the form of monitoring and making sure that the claims are implemented according to the agreement. However, again, we work with the other departments to make sure the watershed issue and the implementation of transboundary issues are being complied with and dealt with. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is in regard to the aboriginal issues or concerns that might fall between different jurisdictional boundaries such as mentioned, to the Executive and the Premier in regard to the issues that concern the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in and with regard to the aboriginal connection between relatives or cousins that live in Alaska or Yukon or in the territories where there are a lot of crosschecks in between families and what not. Is there anything in your department that can look at the possibility of

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assisting when there is an issue which crosses jurisdictions. We have heard about what is going on in northern Ontario and in Quebec, talking about the islands in the east. As you are aware that there is a Gwich'in Nation which consists of the Alaska Gwich'in people, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The same thing applies with the Inuvialuit, where they have connections between Alaska and themselves. So I would like to ask the Minister, does his department in any way involve themselves or try to

partake in what is going on in those areas? If there is anything that they can do to assist the organizations to be able to carry out their different rights in regard to the cross-boundary jurisdictions that they fall? If there is any way of this department assisting them to ensure that there is some support there in regard to when it comes to aboriginal issues?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, each claim that was negotiated and identified the overlap issues and matters and it is right in their own claim agreement that deals with all these different issues, and in the implementation of these claims, the role of this ministry is, with our workers and with our claims implementors, to make sure we deal with all these issues according to the agreements that have been agreed to. So they are overlap boundary agreements in each one of these claims and that is what we have to abide by. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the area that I was looking at was the jurisdiction between Canada and the United States in regard to the Alaskan boundary where you have trade between the different aboriginal groups but there are restrictions that apply when they want to move products from one territory to the next. Or else, issues that affect across the border such as environmental issues or habitat issues such as the Porcupine Caribou concerns. With regard to that, I was wondering if the department has any involvement in any of those discussions or is there anything that the department can do to assist these groups on such matters to ensure that their complaints are being heard by somebody and that someone is able to involve themselves to intervene or find a way to resolve some of these outstanding issues.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, these are not very easy solutions to what the honourable Member is talking about. There are processes within each of these agreements that deal with these issues. We support those processes the best we can. With regard to the issue of international trade between the US and Canada in the Gwich'in area, there are arrangements between the two countries on international trade that have to be taken into consideration, as well. On the smaller scale, let us say between the Yukon and the NWT, we try to abide by the processes that are laid out in the agreements. There are international trade agreements. There is a thing called the Jay Treaty and then there is the Free Trade Agreement which is on the international level, that are there, as well. That is between federal governments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Before I recognize Mr. Krutko again, I would just like to point out to Members that we have been on general comments for this department for two days. Since this department has only one activity summary and the questions in relation to all that has been discussed at this point seem to relate to the activity summary, could we get some sense of progress by at least moving to the activity summary?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

I just have one more question. It is going to take about ten minutes. The reason I ask is that the Minister is responsible for Aboriginal Affairs with his federal counterpart, the Minister in Ottawa, Jane Stewart. Is there a system in place where this government, I know we do not have jurisdiction over what goes on in the United States but I believe we might have some influence over the federal government when it comes to aboriginal questions and issues. I think that this department has more responsibilities than it is making out to be and I think that it has to somehow find a way to ensure that these concerns are looked at. Your portfolio is Aboriginal Affairs and I think that we keep hearing issues that well, it is jurisdictional or between different national

boundaries and that we do not have a say in the matter. I think that if something affects you, especially with regard to the environment or basically affects you with regard to having the right to harvest certain species, I think that we have to seriously look into these matters and if it means going through the federal Minister or the federal Department of External Affairs or some other department that there has to be an effort made by this government to look into the matter. I think we can not continue to say that we do not have a say in the matter or influencing what goes on here. I think that between the Inuvialuit and the Gwich'in they have more contact or connection between themselves and the people of Alaska than they do with the rest of the Northwest Territories. I think it is critical that that link continues. I think there has to be a serious look into this matter. I would like to ask the Minister again, will he consider looking at this matter if there is a national means of doing it through the federal Minister or else through the international community through external affairs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand what the honourable Member is referring to. In the Government of the Northwest Territories all departments have a role with respect to aboriginal affairs and again we play a role whenever there are some rights, claims and self-government relations that affect some of the departments. We make sure that the treaty rights and aboriginal affairs are taken into consideration. In this government there is an Intergovernmental Affairs that used to

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be with this ministry but that division was moved into the Executive. Whenever you deal with Intergovernmental Affairs between different jurisdictions then it is their responsibility. I understand what the honourable Member is saying that we in this ministry, perhaps we should be taking his concerns into more consideration of trying to deal with the other jurisdiction. Again, we work as a government as a whole. We work together and the responsibility of dealing with other jurisdictions is the responsibility of Intergovernmental Affairs. Whenever it is dealing with aboriginal affairs in other jurisdictions, I think this ministry should be more involved. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. I recognize Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is again with the land claims discussions with the First Nations in Akaitcho territory. Are they attempting to include their self-government negotiations in their claims discussions as well?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes. Yes, they are. It is a combination.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that one of the sticking points that has to be clarified through the political route?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Akaitcho chiefs have not... there is no formal negotiating session at this point in time but according to the federal government they have to go comprehensive claims or specific claims or treaty lands entitlement. It is still, they are approaching it with a combination approach so there is no formal process at this point in time. It is a sticky point the combining land and resources discussion and self-government discussions because of the fact that it is not really clear whether they are going comprehensive or TLE. They want to go a combination. I think that is in the political realm now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. We are on general comments of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? Your motion is defeated, Mr. Erasmus. We are on general comments of the department. What I would like to know from the committee is are we prepared to go into the details of this department?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question with regard to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and who has jurisdiction over what, maybe the Minister could tell me exactly who does have jurisdiction over aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories or for that matter, in this government. Everybody seems to be handing off this one. I asked the same question to the Executive under the Cabinet Secretariat. I was basically given the same answer where basically it is up to Aboriginal Affairs and now Aboriginal Affairs is telling me that this responsibility lies with Intergovernmental Affairs. Who does this responsibility lie with?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. In consideration of the time, I will have to ask you to repeat your question when we return to this and I will recognize the clock. I thank the witnesses. I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 15-13(5); Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99; Committee Report 03-13(5) and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, seconded by Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, Item 22, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, meeting of the Constitutional Working Group at 7:00 p.m. this evening. Meetings for tomorrow at 9:00 a.m., again of the Constitutional Working Group, at 11:00 a.m. of the Ordinary Members' Caucus.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 3, 1998:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions

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5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion

15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - 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
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99
 - Committee Report 2-13(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations, Report on the 1998-99 Main Estimates
 - Committee Report 3-13(5), Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Report on the 1998-99 Main Estimates
 - Committee Report 4-13(5), Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development, Report on the 1998-99 Main Estimates
 - Committee Report 5-13(5), Standing Committee on Social Programs, Report on the 1998-99 Main Estimates
 - Tabled Document 15-13(5), 1998-99 Budget Address
 - Tabled Document 19-13(5), Guidelines for Implementing Public/Private Partnerships
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills.
22. Orders of the Day.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 3rd at 1:30 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT